

File No. 25/4/NGO

Vol. - III

(L/w One Ammerman
and Two printed
books) inside below

परम गोपनीय

~~TOP SECRET~~

विदेश मंत्रालय

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(एन० जी० ओ० अनुभाग)

(N. G. O. SECTION)

25/4/NGO- III

फाइल नं०

File No.

विषय : कृपया इस आवरण को उलटें
(Subject : (Please Turn Over)

Comm. changed on
14/11/95

कहां भेजा Sent to	कब भेजा On	कहां भेजा Sent to	कब भेजा On	कहां भेजा Sent to	कब भेजा On
IS(EA)	28.2.95				
OPS	28.2.95				
IS(EA)	28/2/96				
H.	29.2.96				
EAD	2.3.96				
IS(EA)	6.3.96				
NGO	6.3.96				
OPS	6.3.96				

~~Declassified~~

(अनुभाग लक्ष्मी)
(ARUN LAXMI)
(संयुक्त संसदीय दल (ब.पा.))
(Joint Parliamentary Party (C.M.))
विदेश मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली
Ministry of External Affairs
New Delhi

keep by
28/12/15



More than 2 yrs old
Declassify

Note - 1 - 19
Corr. - 1 - 134
Total - 153 Pages

SUBJECT :

Ashes of Late Metaji Subhas
Chandru Boro in Ranbarji Temple

■ संबद्ध फाइलें :

Connected Files :

Tokyo

नं०

No.

विषय :

Subject :

171A Treane

Shaw Mowg input } Printed
Khalo Commission input } book

किस तारीख को निकाली गई B/F Date	किस क्रम संख्या के लिए निकाली गई For Serial No.	किस क्रम संख्या का निषटान हुआ Disposal Serial No.	टिप्पणी Remarks

Secret

Monthly / External Affairs

N 60

FR

Dr. No. 1871 N 0078

pl. check pps indicated

at (1) to (11) and put up to me.

sd/- N. N. Harash
Dir (GA)

Papers subtd. duly flagged.

Recent notes on the subject are being

sent by AS(AD) to JS(N&EA) through
JS(AD-I).

DIR(EA)

Proceedence
27.2.78

I understand AS(AD) desires
to see these papers.

Submitted pl.

Harash
1/3

TS-3 TS 65/79

87vc

AS(AD)

Ministry of External Affairs

F.S. mentioned to me about an item which appeared in the daily papers today relating to certain charges levelled against Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, former Prime Minister, by Dr. Subramaniam Swamy, M.P.

2. I place below the relevant clipping from today's "Times of India". It will be seen that the Ministry of External Affairs itself does not come into the picture as a Ministry. The allegations are not against matters which would fall within the purview of the Ministry of External Affairs, but relate to the late Prime Minister. Dr. Swamy has demanded, according to the newspaper report, that all files of cypher telegrams maintained in the Indian Embassy in Tokyo and the Ministry of External Affairs should be sealed. Actually, we do not retain files of cypher telegrams; these telegrams form part of files which would be retained indefinitely, only if they are of historical value. In the present case, as F.S. is aware, telegrams can be sent directly to the Prime Minister without copies being endorsed to the Ministry of External Affairs or any other Ministry.

3. Dr. Swamy has indicated that he will first mention this to the Prime Minister. It is only at that stage, and if the Prime Minister desires our Ministry to take any action, that we should deal with this question.

F.S. may kindly see.

Thomas Abraham
Additional Secretary
9/2/1978

Foreign Secretary

916/JS(A)/78

Any way some reliable officer should go through records taken and see if there is any reference to the treasure in Tokyo. We must make absolutely sure that before Parliament assemble a full summary from published and confidential sources on the treasure is ready - in case questions are asked. EA & HD could be asked to look into it but a minimum number of officers should be involved. M. M. Chel

US (6/11) to
spk after
a meeting
11/19/78

AS AD

AS AD

9/2

Confidential

From overleaf.

I have discussed this with Jt. Secy. (N&EA), who says that he has instructed his office to make inquiries from our Embassy in Tokyo and endorse a copy of the answer to the Ministry of Home Affairs who may be dealing with this should the question arise. I have reminded him verbally to let me know the results of this inquiry.

Meanwhile US(GA) may kindly check ^{directly} with N.G.O., Historical Division and our records if there is anything on the subject with us.

(A. Khaleeli)
Joint Secretary (AD)
February 18, 1978.

US(GA).

As desired I have asked S.O. (NGO) and Director (Historical Division) to trace papers relevant in records with them. NGO Section does not keep cypher telegrams older than 10 years and SO(NGO) is therefore to examine file registers from 1947 to 1952.

2. Director(Historical Division) considered the likelihood of locating papers remote, but I have requested him and Deputy Director Shri S. Narayana Rao to begin looking into files with Historical Division and the National Archives relating to the subject in general.

3. Director(HD) suggested that if enquiries were necessary on a formal basis at a later stage, persons close to Netaji, like Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, might have to be consulted and records in Prime Minister's Office examined. At that stage, Shri R.K. Nehru could also be consulted.

4. EA Division have already alerted our Missions in Tokyo and London. At a later stage if necessary Missions in Tokyo could consult Government of Japan.

5. We may now await results of efforts of NGO Section and Historical Division.

A. Sinha
(A. Sinha) 24² 78.
Under Secretary(GA)
24.2.78

J S(AD.I)

A S(AD)

N GO

9/6/JS(AD)/x
385-USG/1/78
20/2

Ministry of External Affairs

From pre-page

I have been through the relevant papers which are contained in NGO file No.25/4 Vol.I & II.

2. On instructions from Delhi, some property which belonged to the INA was brought to India from Tokyo by Shri Damle, at that time Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Food & Agriculture. The articles arrived in Delhi in November 1952.

3. There is a complete list of these articles in the NGO file, including jewellery.

4. They were kept in safe custody by the then JS(AD) and it was finally decided that it should be handed over to the National Museum.

5. On 30/12/1953, the "treasure" was opened, contents checked against the list from Tokyo, relocked and resealed and handed, along with the keys, to Shri J.K.Roy, Superintendent, National Museum in the presence of Mr.A.C.Banerji of the National Museum. This was done on 30/12/1953.

6. JS(Ad) and JS(N&EA) should see these papers before it is sent to US(GA).

(Thomas Abraham)
Addl. Secretary (AD)
27/2/1978

JS(AD) II
JS(N&EA)

For info. we had earlier on seeing the newspaper report written to our Ambassador in Tokyo. Perhaps JS(AD) II could consider writing him a short letter giving the above fact as recorded by AS(AD).

7-3.

JS(AD) II

8/3.

US(GA)

If JS(AD) considers it necessary a draft letter is placed below conveying the above background from NGO papers to our Ambassador in Tokyo.

(A.Sinha)
U.S.(GA)
10-3-78

10/3/78

JS(AD)

180375(N&EA) 6/3

1243 AD 27/2/78

1875-55 (AD) 27/2

1622/27/2

2163-55 (AD) 8/3

2370-NGO 10/3

9-3-78

534-us/GA 10/3

2330-55 (AD) 13/3

JS(NEA) had seen the pps on
the matter he like to approve
the Ambassador on the lines of
the draft?

[Signature]

JS(NEA) ~~2/2~~

Under Dir (CA) placed this after going
to the draft place. *[Signature]* 16/3

Dir (CA)

I have slightly amended the draft in view
of the reply dated 14.2.1978 received from Shri
A.N. Ram. If necessary, JS(AD-II) may like to call
for the relevant file No.25/4/NGO-Vol.III.

[Signature]
(Miss) (N.N. Haralu)
Director (EA)
18.3.1978.

JS(AD-II)

213073 (NLEA) 28
16/3

341-Div(EA) 78
17/3

2559-JS (ADII) 78
18/3

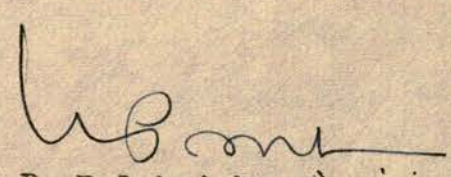
82 VL
16.5.78

This morning there was a telephone call from Dr. N.R. Banerjee, Director, National Museum, to the effect that the box containing relics of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, which is in the National Museum, was being opened and that the presence of a representative of the Ministry of External Affairs was required. As desired by JS(AD-I), I went immediately to the National Museum accompanied by US(GA). By the time of our arrival, the sealed bag containing the box and the box itself, had been opened and the individual packets taken out. This was done in the presence of Shri A.S. Gill, Additional Secretary, Department of Culture, who informed me that they had instructions from the P.M.'s Office to open the box, make a detailed inventory and evaluate the contents. Also present were the Director of National Museum, former Director Shri Sivaramamurthy, the Director-General of Archaeological Survey as well as technical exports.

2. The box had been placed inside a bag similar to the one normally used as diplomatic bags. It had been sealed with the seal of the Ministry of External Affairs. Along with the box, the bag also contained a luggage tag of the PAN American Airways made out in the name of Shri Damle. It is seen from the files that it was Shri Damle who brought the box from our Mission in Tokyo in 1952. A brief summary of the history of the box is in former AS(AD)'s note on page 4 ante. The sealed bag containing the box had been handed over to the National Museum in 1953.

3. The box contained one bundle of 14 packets (packet in Government of India envelope), two other bundles and a bundle of gold pieces containing the superscription of "Ayer's lot". The contents of the bundles correspond broadly to the list at flag 'B'.

4. The officials of the National Museum are preparing a detailed inventory of the articles in the different packets and bundles. The report of the inventory will be sent by the Director, National Museum to Additional Secretary, Department of Culture. A copy will be sent to us. After the work on these items is completed, the packages will be placed again in the box and sealed by the Director, National Museum.


(K.P. Balakrishnan)
Director (Establishment)
9.10.78

JS(AD-I)

AS(AD) may kindly see the Unstarred Question No.4957 at S.No.7, regarding the so-called INA Treasure.

2. The box containing the various articles recovered from the plane which crashed with Netaji Subash Chandra Bose, had been in the National Museum since 1953. It was opened on 9.10.1978 on the instructions of the Prime Minister, and Director (Est) was present on behalf of this Ministry. His note above may kindly be seen.

18-12/JS/81/78

3. These papers are being submitted to AS(AD) for information. He may like to keep FS informed of the present position. (FS had seen this file on 9.2.1978 vide his note at page 2-ante).

(P.P. D'Souza)
Joint Secretary (AD-I)
12.10.1978

T/992/PS/78
16.X.78

AS(AD)

FS may pl. see. for inf.

M Jain
13/10

SA H FM may kindly
inform FM

PM Ch
18.X.78

FM informed. He has
also seen the list
appended at P/B.

Ambar
19/10/78

SM FM
No. 4957 at 8.10.78 regarding the no-called LVA

f.s. informed

Souza
22/10/78

N Rao

Save

(from pre-page)

Reference U.O. Note No.21/52/78-T dated 9.11.1978 from the Ministry of Home Affairs enclosing notice for Rajya Sabha Starred Question D.No.402 regarding INA treasure.

2. A copy of the report in the "Amrita Bazar Patrika", Calcutta, dated 25th October 1978, referred to in the Question for the Rajya Sabha, is placed below. The Ministry of Home Affairs, with whom the matter was discussed, have stated that since matters relating to the INA "treasure" have all along been dealt with by our Ministry, we should agree to take over this question and provide information to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat. It is however difficult for this Ministry to provide information on part (b) of the question which seeks details of the findings following the opening of the treasure box. This was handled by the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare/Department of Culture, as will be seen from the note on page 6 ante. Shri A.S. Gill, Additional Secretary, Department of Culture, under whose supervision the opening was done, is away from station until Monday, 13th November. Copies of the Question have however been sent to the Department of Culture/Ministry of Education & SW, requesting them to provide information to us and directly to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat.

3. A draft reply to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat giving information asked for, to the extent that it is available with us, is placed below for approval. By and large, this is based on the information provided by us in answer to Unstarred Question No.4957 in the Lok Sabha, except for an interpolation to the effect that the "treasure" was brought over from Tokyo in one box, which has reference to parts (d) and (e) of the question. The question as to how many boxes containing the "treasure" were there originally has been discussed in a letter dated 20th October 1951 from the Head of the Indian Liaison Mission in Tokyo. There is, however, no tangible information we can provide on this. Our information would have to be restricted to the state of the "treasure" from the time the material was handed over to our Liaison Mission and forwarded by them to New Delhi.

4. It is for consideration whether the individuals involved in the operation should be specifically identified.

5. Regarding part (g) of the question on whether the matter was placed before the Netaji Enquiry Committee of 1956 and the Khosla Commission, we have only records to show that the files were seen by Shri Shah Nawaz Khan who headed the Committee in 1956 regarding the specific points i) to vii) mentioned in the Rajya Sabha Secretariat O.M. Point vi) has been answered in the affirmative in the draft reply.

... contd.

✓ F.R.
(S.No. 9/ear)

✓ Flag 'M'

...

✓ Flag 'Y'
(S.No. 10/ear)

✓ D.F.A.

...

Δ Flag 'X'
(S.No. 7/ear)

□ Flag 'B'
(L/P S.No. 40-A/ear)
No. 25/4/NGO-101

⊗ Flag 'e'
(L/P S.No. 40-A/ear)
Note p. 28

Flag 'D'
(S.No. 101-A/ear)
(libd)

(contd. from pre-page)

6. JS(AD-I) may kindly see.

[Signature]

(K.P. Balakrishnan)
Director (Establishment)
10.11.1978

JS(AD-I)

FS. may kindly see
notes at p 6-7/ ante re: INA
"treasure". The Rajya Sabha Secretariat
has now received a question
on the subject, and we have
been asked for the facts.

We propose replying as in
the Draft below.

FS. may kindly see
for approval

[Signature]
10/11/78

7/992/PS/78
10/11/78

FS.

JS(AD-I) has seen

[Signature]
10.11.78

S.W. 10 (15m)
S.W. 11 (15m)
S.W. 12 (15m)

Recd
13/11/78
SKV

(contd. from pre-page)

D.W. 12138 Nov 78

(13)

FR

to (A-1) may kindly see.

Director (Establishment)
10.11.1978
Pl. put up in file.

sd/- P. Balakrishnan.

Dir (ESTT)

16.11.78

papers submitted

S. Srinivasan

17.11.78

Dr

17/11/78

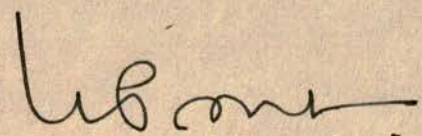
Dir (ESTT)

T. 96/AS(A)/78

27/11/78

Filey 'X'
...

As desired by Addl. Secretary (Asia),
a self-contained note, tracing the history of the
INA Treasure, is placed below.



(K.P. Balakrishnan)
Director (Establishment)
2.12.1978

Addl. Secy. (Asia)

T/102/AS(A)/78
2/12/78

12
~~SECRET~~

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

....

As desired by Principal Secretary, a detailed note on the "INA Treasure" has been prepared by Shri K.P.Balakrishnan, Director (Establishment) in this Ministry. It is placed below for perusal.

(E.Gonsalves)
Additional Secretary (Asia)
4.12.1978

Principal Secretary to P.M.

25/12/Nov - 64 - III

5.12.78

AS(A) wishes a copy of DS(Estt.)'s note to be kept if not already done.

Karpanth
4/12

no

Issued
A
5/12

13

~~SECRET~~

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

....

As desired by Principal Secretary, a detailed note on the "INA Treasure" has been prepared by Shri K.P. Balakrishnan, Director (Establishment) in this Ministry. It is placed below for perusal.

[Signature]
(E. Gonsalves)
Additional Secretary (Asia)
4.12.1978

Principal Secretary to P.M.

2574 IN 60 - Vol. III

5.12.78

1017-PMF/78
6.12.78

I am forward to Add Sec (Asia) for

the very illuminating and exhaustive note
I suggest that a copy may be sent to National
Museum for record and another copy to us

[Signature]
5.12.78

Add Sec (Asia) to E. Gonsalves

Recd
Y. G.

2/10 / Dir/PM

13
7/12

2 fair letters forwarded (the
note to Director, National Museum and (2) PM's
Secy. are put up for approval.

1. Elhineph
21.12.78

[Signature]
21/12/78

Sec (Estt)

[Signature]

21/12/78

1017-PMF/78
6.12.78

2378 AS(A)78
6/12

D. 12849-Nachis
MN

EX 10

-14-


~~Secret~~

Ministry of External Affairs

N Co. London

We may request Mr. Dargwa
to make 3 copies of the Report placed
below.

T. Ellingworth
14.12.78


14.12.78

Sh. Gupta

SLVc

Ministry of External Affairs

D. 2402 (NWA/78)

Sl. 32-A.

As spoken.
JS(EST) may kindly see what can be
done.

Jtd. Mrs. M. Bhalla
28.2.78.

JS(EST)

Jtd. M. L. Sharma
28/2

NWA

Discussed with JS(AD-I)/JS(EST).

JS(AD-I) feels that parts (a) & (b) of
the present question more or less correspond
to the question answered by P.M. on 22.11.78
except that the present question makes mention
about reports that had been sent to the Govt. of
India by the Govt. of Japan, when in actual fact
the treasure box was brought to Delhi from Tokyo
by an official of the Govt. of India under instructions
from the then P.M. in November 1952. Part (d) can
be answered on the basis of P.M.'s office note dated
24.2.78. This leaves us with part (c) on which
on a preliminary check no papers appear to be
available in N.A.O.

JS(AD-I) spoke to JS(NWA) to ascertain
whether his division would be prepared to answer
the question to which the latter replied in the negative.

→

(16)

- 16 -

stating that all their papers had been transferred to N. Sec. Apart from the three volumes of this file there do not appear to be any other papers in N. Sec.

JS (AD-I) desired that JS (EST) may kindly send a copy of the Lok Sabha Question to Dir (EA) and ascertain formally whether they have any material on the Question to enable us to answer the same. The Khosla Commission report, I gather, is available in East Asia Division.

Submitted.

V. N. Swamy
28.2.77

JS (EST) M

We may accept the transfer of the Question. A draft reply to Lok Sabha Secy. is being for a There is a basic ambiguity in the Question itself. The treasure did not actually belong to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. It was INA Treasure which Netaji was carrying with him. It is for consideration whether we should ask for disallowance of the Question on this point.

Subj.

S-N-36C(SM)

S-N-37A(CR)

S-N-38C(WM)

4. No. 2617 Nov 1978

(39-A)

FR

(1978.11.20)
(1978.11.20)
(1978.11.20)

Lok Sabha Seethi has transferred the question on INA Treason to this ministry. The question has been admitted as 'unstated' for 15.3.1979. The final question number etc. are awaited from the Lok Sabha.

2. On the basis of FM's and PM's earlier answers on this question in the Lok Sabha, a draft reply has been attempted and is put up for consideration.

Subbit

V. K. Swamy
6.3.79.

6/3/79

DP (EST)

IS (AS-I)

As (AD) may also be shown these papers specially the proposed reply.

Singh
6/3

from pre-page

Placed below is the Unstarred Question provisionally admitted for 15th March 1979 concerning INA Treasure.

2. Based on the replies to somewhat similar questions placed on the table of the House on two earlier occasions viz. on 30th March 1978 and 22nd November 1978, and on the basis of the information available with us, a draft reply to the Unstarred Question is placed below.

(M. L. Suri)
DS(EST)
7.3.79

T.No.54/AS(AD) AA

AS(AD)

For approval as slightly amended

Mojan
7/3

M.O.S.

Please put up the minutes of discussion which our Ambassador in Rangoon had with ~~He~~ Ne Win in this connection.

30-405 per
8/3

Stor

9.3.79

AS(AD) / GS(S) The letter is at slip X which may like to see
Mojan
7/3

File no. 9/142/NRO containing the Amb's letter is placed below. (Flag X)

P. L. Sweeney
9.3.79
SO(Grd)

M.O.S.

Please discuss

Stor
13/3/79

AS(AD)

as amended

Stor
13/3/79

Sh. PK
18/5

in S.O. (Hart)

The N.G.O. file is separated and returned herewith

Sh. PK
18/5

TS-27-JS(EA)41

13/9/91

SO(N/90)

TS-42-JS(EA)95

28/11/91

ShOPS

28.21.95

- 19 -
NAO Sector

As desired by JS(CNV), a copy each of the
Shah Nawaz Committee Report (1956) and the Khosla
Commission Report (1974) are placed in the file (flagged)
and are submitted for perusal please.

JS
20/12/2009

US(NAO)

JS(CNV)

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3287

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 15TH MARCH, 1979

TREASURE BOX BELONGING TO NETAJI

SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE.

134

3287

PROFESSOR SAMAR GUHA:

Will the Minister of External Affairs विदेश मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have got all the reports about Netaji's treasure that had been sent to the Government of India by the Government of Japan;

(b) if so, all facts collected upto now;

(c) whether Government had informed Khosla Commission that the file marked as "Netaji's treasure" which was being handled by the former Additional Secretary to the Prime Minister (Mr. Mohd. Yunus) has been destroyed or missing; and

(d) whether Government will institute a thorough inquiry to find out all facts about the missing treasure of Azad Hind Government that was carried by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on 17th August, 1945 when he left Saigon by Air?

.....

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU)

विदेश राज्य मंत्री

(a) & (b) : Yes, Sir. The Treasure belonging to the INA was brought to Delhi from Tokyo by an official of the Government of India under instructions from then Prime Minister in November 1952. Full facts relating to the Treasure have already been disclosed in this House by the External Affairs Minister and the Prime Minister in written answers to Questions Nos. 4957 and 60 on 30th March, 1978 and 22nd November 1978, respectively.

(c) & (d) : According to information available with us Government had not informed Khosla Commission that file marked as "Netaji's Treasure" has been destroyed or missing. No file pertaining to the INA treasure is missing. The subject matter of the INA Treasure was not a matter specified in the terms of reference given to the Khosla Commission. As complete details about the INA Treasure are already available with the Government of India, there is no proposal to institute any further enquiry.

.....

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3287

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 15TH MARCH, 1979

TREASURE BOX BELONGING TO NETAJI

SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE.

3287

PROFESSOR SAMAR GUHA:

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(a) whether Government have got all the reports about Netaji's treasure that had been sent to the Government of India by the Government of Japan;

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ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU)

विदेश राज्य मंत्री

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15 मार्च 1979 - - - - - 24 फाल्गुन 1900 (शक)
को लोक सभा की बैठक में उत्तर दिए जाने के लिए

नेताजी सुभाष चन्द्र बोस का खजाने से भरा बक्सा
=====

प्रश्न : 3287

प्र० सभर गुह :

क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

- (क) क्या सरकार को नेताजी के उस खजाने के बारे में सारे समाचार मिल गये हैं जो जापान सरकार द्वारा भारत सरकार को भेजा गया था ;
- (ख) यदि हाँ, तो अब तक एकत्र किए गए सभी तथ्य क्या हैं ;
- (ग) क्या सरकार ने खोसला आयोग को सूचित किया था कि " नेताजी का खजाना " शीर्षक वाली फाईल, जिस पर प्रधान मंत्री के भूतपूर्व अतिरिक्त सचिव (श्री मोहम्मद युनुस) द्वारा कार्यवाही की जा रही थी, नष्ट कर दी गई है अथवा गुप्त है ; और
- (घ) क्या सरकार आजाद हिन्द सरकार के गुमशुदा खजाने के बारे में, जो नेताजी सुभाषचन्द्र बोस 17 अगस्त 1945 को वायुयान द्वारा सैगोन छोड़ने के समय अपने साथ ले गये थे, सभी तथ्यों का पता लगाने के लिये पूरी जांच करेगी ?

उत्तर :

श्री समरेन्द्र कुण्डू :

विदेश राज्य मंत्री

- (क) और (ख) : जी हाँ । आजाद हिन्द फौज के खजाने/नवंबर 1952 में / को तत्कालीन प्रधान मंत्री के अनुदेशों के अनुसार भारत सरकार के एक अधिकारी द्वारा तोकियो से दिल्ली लाया गया था । इस खजाने से संबंधित पूर्ण तथ्य इस सदन में 30 मार्च 1978 और 22 नवम्बर 1978 को लोक सभा में क्रमशः प्रश्न सं० 4957 और 60 के लिखित उत्तर में विदेश मंत्री और प्रधान मंत्री द्वारा बताये जा चुके हैं ।
- (ग) और (घ) : हमारे पास उपलब्ध सूचना के अनुसार सरकार ने खोसला आयोग को यह नहीं बताया कि " नेताजी का खजाना " नामक फाईल नष्ट कर दी

(13)

- 2 -

लोक सभा अता० प्रश्न सं० 3287

गई है या मिल नहीं रही है । भारतीय राष्ट्रीय सेना कोष से संबद्ध कोई फाइल गुप्त नहीं हुई है । खोसला आयोग को दिये गये विचारणीय विधायों में आज़ाद हिन्द फौज के खजाने के संबंधित मामले का उल्लेख नहीं था । चूंकि आज़ाद हिन्दी फौज के खजाने का पूर्ण विवरण भारत सरकार के पास उपलब्ध है, अतः इसके लिए और जाँच करने का कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है ।

130

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

..

**Subject:- Lok Sabha Unstarred Question
No.3287 by Professor Samar Guha
regarding Treasure Box belonging to
Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. Answered
on 15.3.1979.**

--

////

The undersigned is directed to enclose
a copy of answer given by the Minister of State
in the Ministry of External Affairs to the above
Lok Sabha Question for information of the Ministry
of Home Affairs.



(S.N. SWAMY)
Section Officer (NGO)

Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri S.Bandyopadhyay,Dy.Secy

MBA U.O. NO.F.25/4/NGO-Part-III. Dated the March, 1979.

9d
17/3/79

(129)

3092/MS-725, 6/3
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3287

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3287

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 15TH MARCH, 1979

TREASURE BOX BELONGING TO NETAJI

SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE.

Pl. send this
to M.H.A.
also for their
information.
Cul
15-3

N.G.O.

Sa V.C.

15/3/79

3287

PROFESSOR SAMAR GUHA:

Will the Minister of External Affairs विदेश मंत्री
be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have got all the reports
about Netaji's treasure that had been sent to the Government of
India by the Government of Japan;

(b) if so, all facts collected uptil now;

(c) whether Government had informed Khosla Commission
that the file marked as "Netaji's treasure" which was being handled
by the former Additional Secretary to the Prime Minister (Mr.Mohd.
Yunus) has been destroyed or missing; and

(d) whether Government will institute a thorough
inquiry to find out all facts about the missing treasure of
Azad Hind Government that was carried by Netaji Subhas Chandra
Bose on 17th August, 1945 when he left Saigon by Air?

.....
ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU)

विदेश राज्य मंत्री

(a) & (b) : Yes, Sir. The Treasure belonging
to the INA was brought to Delhi from Tokyo by an official of the
Government of India under instructions from then Prime Minister
in November 1952. Full facts relating to the Treasure have
already been disclosed in this House by the External Affairs
Minister and the Prime Minister in written answers to
Questions Nos. 4957 and 60 on 30th March, 1978 and 22nd
November 1978, respectively.

(c) & (d) : According to information available
with us Government had not informed Khosla Commission that
file marked as "Netaji's Treasure" has been destroyed or
missing. No file pertaining to the INA treasure is missing.
The subject matter of the INA Treasure was not a matter specified
in the terms of reference given to the Khosla Commission. As
complete details about the INA Treasure are already available
with the Government of India, there is no proposal to institute
any further enquiry.

.....

HINDUSTAN TIMES

8-3-79

MPs to see Bose's box

NEW DELHI, March 7 (UNI)—Prime Minister Morarji Desai told the Lok Sabha today there is no bar on Parliament members from inspecting the controversial treasure box brought from Tokyo to Delhi in November, 1952.

Mr Desai told Mr H. V. Kamath that arrangements could be made for the purpose. The treasure box belonging to Subhas Chandra Bose was proposed to be kept in the National Museum until its final disposal is decided upon.

The box was opened for inspection in the presence of officers and only they had seen it. The box had been resealed by them.

The draft answer as placed below
has been approved by MOS
slightly amended.

The NAO file has been separated
and retained. ~~for~~ ^{onward to}
file

Reply

13/2/1979

PS to MOS

~~So. Cl. 7~~

N. 90 / Section

NC.
~~Sr~~ 17/3/79

126

LOK SABHA

15.3.79

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

3287

Treasure Box belonging to Netaji
Subhas Chandra Bose

3287. PROFESSOR SAMAR GUHA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS

विदेश मंत्री

be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have got
all the reports about Netaji's treasure
that had been sent to the Govern-
ment of India by the Government of
Japan;

(b) if so, all facts collected upto
now;

(c) whether Government had in-
formed Khosla Commission that the
file marked as "Netaji's treasure"
which was being handled by the
former Additional Secretary to the
Prime Minister (Mr. Mohd. Yunus)
has been destroyed or missing; and

(d) whether Government will in-
stitute a thorough inquiry to find out
all facts about the missing treasure
of Azad Hind Government that was
carried by Netaji Subhas Chandra
Bose on 17th August, 1945 when he
left Saigon by air?

DS (ESH)
9/3

NGO

488-A (80) 185
3210/NGO/75
17-3-75

26/7/1979
6-378

लोक सभा के लिए प्रश्न-अग्रिम सूचना
QUESTION FOR THE LOK SABHA—~~ANY/ANY/ANY~~ NOTICE

125

तारांकित/अतारांकित प्रश्न सं./S/1/1/Unstarred D. No. 2287
मंत्रालय जिसके लिए दिन नियत किया गया है/Ministry to which the day has been allotted.
विदेश मंत्रालय/External Affairs
प्रश्न स्वीकृत होने पर सदन में उत्तर दिए जाने की तारीख
The question will, if admitted, be put down for the sitting on the

15-3-1979.

TREASURE BOX BELONGING TO NETAJI
SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE

3
2287. PROFESSOR SAMAR GUHA:

Will the Prime Minister
be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have got all the reports about
Netaji's treasure that had been sent to the Government of
India by the Government of Japan:

(b) if so, all facts collected uptil now;

(c) whether Government had informed Khosla Commission
that the file marked as 'Netaji's treasure' which was being
handled by the former Additional Secretary to the Prime
Minister (Mr. Mohd. Yunus) has been destroyed or missing; and

(d) whether Government will institute a thorough inquiry
to find out all facts about the missing treasure of Azad

124

Hind Government that was carried by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on 17th August, 1945 when he left Saigon by air?

15-3-1973

TREASURE BOX BELONGING TO NETAJI
SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE

2287. PROFESSOR SAMAR GUHA:

Will the Prime Minister

be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have got all the reports about Netaji's treasure that had been sent to the Government of India by the Government of Japan;

(b) if so, all facts collected up till now;

(c) whether Government had informed Khosla Commission that the file marked as 'Netaji's treasure', which was being handled by the former Additional Secretary to the Prime Minister (Mr. Mohd. Yunus) has been destroyed or missing; and

(d) whether Government will institute a thorough inquiry to find out all facts about the missing treasure of Azad

(123)

लोक सभा के लिए प्रश्न---अग्रिम सूचना
QUESTION FOR THE LOK SABHA—ADVANCE NOTICE

तारंकित/अतारंकित डा० सं०/~~Starred~~/Unstarred D. No. 2287

मंत्रालय जिसके लिए दिन नियत किया गया है/Ministry to which the day has been allotted.

विदेश मंत्रालय/External Affairs

प्रश्न स्वीकृत होने पर सदन में उत्तर दिए जाने की तारीख

The question will, if admitted, be put down for the sitting on the

15-3-1979.

TREASURE BOX BELONGING TO NETAJI
SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE

2287. PROFESSOR SAMAR GUHA:

Will the Prime Minister
be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have got all the reports about Netaji's treasure that had been sent to the Government of India by the Government of Japan:

(b) if so, all facts collected uptil now;

(c) whether Government had informed Khosla Commission that the file marked as 'Netaji's treasure' which was being handled by the former Additional Secretary to the Prime Minister (Mr. Mohd. Yunus) has been destroyed or missing; and

(d) whether Government will institute a thorough inquiry to find out all facts about the missing treasure of Azad

Hind Government that was carried by Netaji
Subhas Chandra Bose on 17th August, 1945 when
he left Saigon by air?

The question will be put down for the session on the

MOST IMMEDIATE
PARLIAMENT QUESTION

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
....

Subject:- Unstarred Question No.2287 (Originally
Provisional Starred Question Dy. No.4788)
for 7-3-1979 regarding treasure box belonging
to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.
...

Will the Lok Sabha Secretariat kindly
refer to Unstarred Question No.2287 (Originally
provisional Starred Question No. 4788) regarding
treasure box belonging to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose
which is put down for answer on 7.3.1979 by the
Prime Minister ?.

2. Since the transfer of the Question has
been accepted by us, it may kindly be allocated to
this Ministry and necessary corrigendum to this
effect issued under intimation to the Prime Minister's
office.

(M.L. SURI)

Deputy Secretary(Est.)
De 3-3-1979

Lok Sabha Secretariat (Question Branch)
MEA U.O. NO. 25/4/NGO dated the 3rd March 1979

Copy to Prime Minister's Office
(Shri N.S.Sreeraman, P.S. to Prime
Minister) with reference to their
U.O. NO. PMS5452 dated the 2.3.1979

(M.L. SURI)
Deputy Secretary (Est).

120
MOST IMMEDIATE
PARLIAMENT QUESTION

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

Subject: Unstarred Question No.2287 (Originally
provisional starred Question D.No.4788)
for 7-3-1979 regarding treasure box
belonging to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

-0-0-0-0-0-0-

Reference the Ministry of External Affairs u.o.
Note No.25/4/NGO dated the 1st March, 1979, conveying
facts regarding the above question, to the Lok Sabha
Secretariat.

The question has since been admitted as Unstarred
in the name of the prime Minister, the printed version
of which is enclosed. The Ministry of External Affairs
may kindly deal with it. The Lok Sabha Secretariat is
being requested to delete the question from prime
Minister's name and allot it to the Minister of External
Affairs. The Ministry may please intimate acceptance
to the Lok Sabha Secret. so that they could issue a
corrigendum.

(N.S. Sreeraman)
Private Secretary
to the prime Minister

Ministry of External Affairs (Shri M.L. Suri, Dy. Secy)
P.M.'s Office u.o. No. PMS-5452 dated: 2-3-79

Pl. put up for
no. note to L.S.
accepting the transfer.
Shive 2/3/79

Admitted by

Undtd for 7/3/79

Loh Sabha

119

Treasure Box belonging to Netaji
Subhas Chandra Bose

2287. PROFESSOR SAMAR GUHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER

प्रधान मंत्री

be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have got
all the reports about Netaji's treasure

that had been sent to the Govern-
ment of India by the Government of
Japan;

(b) if so, all facts collected uptil
now;

(c) whether Government had in-
formed Khosla Commission that the
file marked as 'Netaji's treasure'
which was being handled by the
former Additional Secretary to the
Prime Minister (Mr. Mohd. Yunus)
has been destroyed or missing; and

(d) whether Government will in-
stitute a thorough inquiry to find out
all facts about the missing treasure
of Azad Hind Government that was
carried by Netaji Subhas Chandra
Bose on 17th August, 1945 when he
left Saigon by air?

नेताजी सुभाष चन्द्र बोस का खजाने से
भरा बक्सा

†2287. प्रो० समर गुह :

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा
करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को नेताजी के उस
खजाने के बारे में सारे समाचार मिल गये
हैं जो जापान सरकार द्वारा भारत सरकार
को भेजा गया था ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो अब तक एकत्र
किये गये सभी तथ्य क्या हैं ;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने खोसला आयोग
को सूचित किया था कि "नेताजी का
खजाना" शीर्षक वाली फाईल, जिस पर
प्रधान मंत्री के भूतपूर्व अतिरिक्त सचिव
(श्री मोहम्मद युनुस) द्वारा कार्यवाही
की जा रही थी, नष्ट कर दी गई है
अथवा गुम है; और

(घ) क्या सरकार आजाद हिन्द सरकार
के गुमशुदा खजाने के बारे में, जो नेताजी
सुभाषचन्द्र बोस 17 अगस्त, 1945 को
वायुयान द्वारा सैगोन छोड़ने के समय अपने
साथ ले गये थे, सभी तथ्यों का पता लगाने
के लिये पूरी जांच करेगी ?

Palladian may be. we for

Ma

2.3.79

Palladian

I have written to Mr. Sini, Dy. Secy.,
DEA. They have intimated facts to
Loh Sabha Sectt., and are sending us a
copy of it. We may, on the basis of that,
ask L.S. Sectt. to issue a corrigendum
shifting the On. to Foreign Minister.

Pall. III

2/3/79

(118)

by special messenger

MOST IMMEDIATE
PARLIAMENT QUESTION

Ministry of External Affairs
...

Subject: Provisional Starred Question D.No.4785 for
7.3.1979 regarding Treasure Box belonging
to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose
-:oO:-

The Lok Sabha Secretariat may kindly refer to
their U.O. No.SQ 4785/7.3/79-Q dated 22nd February 1979
on the above subject. The above question by Prof. Samar
Guha has been provisionally admitted for 7th March 1979.

2. In this connection, the attention of the
Lok Sabha Secretariat is very kindly drawn to an
identical question No.60 dated 22nd November 1978
answered by the Prime Minister wherein the full facts
of the case were given in the Parliament. There is no
additional information available with the Government
in this respect. As regards part (c) concerning the
Khosla Commission, the terms of reference of the
Commission did not include the question of the INA
Treasure, nor has Government any proposal to institute
any other inquiry relating to the missing treasure of
the Azad Hind Government.

3. The Lok Sabha Secretariat may place the
above facts before the Hon'ble Speaker to decide
the admissibility or otherwise of the Question, which
has been passed on to us by the P.M.'s Office.

(M.L. Suri)

Dy. Secretary to the Government of India
1.3.1979
Telephone No.37 33 86

Lok Sabha Secretariat (Question Branch)
Min. of E.A. U.O. No. 25/4/NGO dated 1.3.1979

Copy to Prime Minister's Secretariat (Shri N.S.
Sreeraman, P.S. to PM) with reference to their U.O.No.
PMS-5260, dated the 28th February 1979.

(S.N.Swamy)
Section Officer (NGO)

1/3/79

1338-DU(B) 79
1-3-79

(117)

MOST IMMEDIATE
PARLIAMENT QUESTION.

No.25/4/NGO
Ministry of External Affairs.
N.G.O. Section.

....

Subject:- Admitted provisional Starred Question
No.4785 by Professor Samar Guha regarding
Treasure Box belonging to Netaji Subhas
Chandra Bose.

A copy of LOK SABHA Provisional Starred Question
Dy. No. 4785 on the above subject admitted for answer
on 7.3.1979 is enclosed. It is requested that facts
available in the E.A. Division relating to the above
question may kindly be supplied immediately. It is
requested that a/copy of Khosla Commission Report may also
be supplied.

.....
/ printed

M.L. Suri
(M.L. SURI)
Deputy Secretary (Establishment)
28-2-1979

Director (EA)

Urgent

All questions pertaining to Netaji
are being dealt with by House Ministry
to whom this question should be transferred.

DS (Est)
NGO

recovered
28/2

QUESTION FOR THE LOK SABHA

PROVISIONAL STARRED

ADMITTED

D.NO 4785

Ministry to which the day has been allotted

P.M. OFFICE

The question will be put down for the
sitting on the :-

7.3.79

TREASURE BOX BELONGING TO NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE
PROFESSOR SAMAR GUHA :

Will the Prime Minister

be please to state :

- a) whether Government have got all the reports about Netaji's treasure that had been sent to the Government of India by the Government of Japan:
- b) If so, all facts collected uptil now;
- c) whether Government had informed Khosla Commission that the file marked as 'Netaji's treasure' which was being handled by the former Additional Secretary to the Prime Minister (Mr. Mohd. Yunus) has been destroyed or missing ; and
- d) whether Government will institute a thorough inquiry to find out all facts about the missing treasure of Azad Hind Government that was carried by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose on 17th August, 1945 when he left for Saigon by Air ?

QUESTION FOR THE LOK SABHA

PROVISIONAL STARRED

ADMITTED

D.NO 4785

Ministry to which the day has been allotted

P.M. OFFICE

The question will be put down for the
sitting on the :-

7.3.79

TREASURE BOX BELONGING TO NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE

PROFESSOR SAMAR GUHA :

Will the Prime Minister

be please to state :

- a) whether Government have got all the reports about Netaji's treasure that had been sent to the Government of India by the Government of Japan:
- b) If so, all facts collected upto now;
- c) whether Government had informed Khosla Commission that the file marked as 'Netaji's treasure' which was being handled by the former Additional Secretary to the Prime Minister (Mr. Mohd. Yunus) has been destroyed or missing ; and
- d) whether Government will institute a thorough inquiry to find out all facts about the missing treasure of Azad Hind Government that was carried by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on 17th August, 1945 when he left for Saigon by Air ?

Most Immediate
Parliament Question

Subject: Lok Sabha Starred Question Dy.No.4785 for 7-3-79 regarding treasure box belonging to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

The question has since been admitted as Provisional Starred for answer on 7-3-79. The question as received from the Lok Sabha Secretariat is enclosed.

(N.S. Sreeraman)
Private Secretary
to the Prime Minister

As discussed. It is the same question. We may accept the question admitted for 7.379

28/2

~~28 (L-51)~~

282 ✓

Save
28/2

358a / N(621)17

QUESTION FOR THE LOK SABHA

PROVISIONAL STARRED

LSS.Q.1/4

113

ADMITTED

D. No.

4785

Ministry to which the day has been allotted

P.M. OFFICE

The question will be put down for the sitting on the :—

7.3.79

TREASURE BOX BELONGING TO NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE

PROFESSOR SAMAR GUHA:

Prime
Will the Minister of

be pleased to state:

- whether Government have got all the reports about Netaji's treasure that had been sent to the Government of India by the Government of Japan;
- if so, all facts collected upto now;
- whether Government had informed Khosla Committee the file marked as 'Netaji's treasure' which was being handled by the former Additional Secretary to the Prime Minister (Mr. M. Yunus) has been destroyed or missing; and
- whether Government will institute a thorough inquiry to find out all facts about the missing treasure of Azad Hind Government that was carried by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on 17th August, 1944 when he left Saigon by air?

Pl. send this to DEA (Capt. R. Chakravarty) in context of JSCPS's note of yesterday.

Since admitted. (Earlier the L.S. Secy had called facts pertaining to the Qn. for advance copy of the Qn. then sent to Pol. Action).

For necessary action, please.

GS/27.2

PS(S)

Pol. Action

Hummer

28.2.79.

PARLIAMENT QUESTION.

No.25/4/NGO
Ministry of External Affairs.
N.G.O. Section.


....

Subject:- Admitted provisional Starred Question
No.4785 by Professor Samar Guha regarding
Treasure Box belonging to Netaji Subhash
Chandra Bose.

A copy of LOK SABHA Provisional Starred Question
Dy. No. 4785 on the above subject admitted for answer
..... on 7.3.1979 is enclosed. It is requested that facts

available in the E.A. Division relating to the above
question may kindly be supplied immediately. It is
requested that a/copy of Khosla Commission Report may also
be supplied.

/ printed


(M.L. SURI)
Deputy Secretary (Establishment)
28-2-1979

Director (EA)

D. 240. 2^N 60/79
28/2/79

(111)

MOST IMMEDIATE
PARLIAMENT QUESTION

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

Subject: Lok Sabha Starred Question Dy.No.4785
for 7.3.1979 regarding treasure box
belonging to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

Reference Ministry of External Affairs U.O.No.25/4/
NGO-Vol.III dated 26.2.1979 on the subjection cited above.

2. Starred Question No.60 answered in Lok Sabha by this Office on 22.11.1978 related to the transport of the treasure box from Japan to India in November 1952, its subsequent custody and examination. That question was handled by this Office because most of the queries raised in it related to information revealed as a result of the opening of the box in the National Museum recently and their examination. On the other hand, the major part of the present question is part (a) which seeks information about reports on the treasure said to have been sent to the Government of India by the Government of Japan. We have no information whatsoever on this aspect in our Office; obviously the Ministry of External Affairs is the Ministry which should be able to answer this part. It is not correct, as stated by the Ministry of External Affairs in their note under reply, that parts (a) and (b) of the present question are already covered by answers given by this Office in Lok Sabha on 22.11.1978.

3. Part (c) of the question seeks information whether the Khosla Commission was informed that a file on the treasure which was being handled by Shri Mohd. Yunus had been destroyed or was missing. Shri Mohd. Yunus was never Additional Secretary to the Prime Minister as mentioned in the question. Obviously the reference is to the file which might have been handled by him when he was in the Ministry of External Affairs and information about it which might have been given to the Khosla Commission by Ministry of External Affairs. In any case, the Prime Minister's Office did not inform the Khosla Commission of any missing file. This part of the question is also obviously for the Ministry of External Affairs to answer.

4. The exhaustive note sent to us by M.E.A. on 21.12.1978 does not deal with these two aspects raised in the present question.

5. In the light of the facts stated above, Ministry of External Affairs are requested to accept transfer of the Question and communicate the necessary facts to Lok Sabha Secretariat, as required by them, urgently.

Prakash
(Prakash Shah)
Joint Secretary
27.2.1979

M.E.A. (Shrimati Manorma Bhalla, JS, Establishment).

P.M.'s Office u. o. No. *PM-5245*
Dated *27-2-79*

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28/2/79

Ministry of External Affairs

110

Subject: Starred Question Dy.No.4785 for 7.3.79
regarding treasure box belonging to
Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

....

22A
With reference to P.M.'s office U.O.No. PMS-4994 dated 24.2.1979 regarding the transfer of the above Starred Question to this Ministry, it is noticed that another Starred Question No.60 by S/Shri H.V.Kamath and Sunendra Bikram more or less of a similar nature, was answered by the Prime Minister in the Lok Sabha on 22.11.1978. Parts (a) and (b) of the question due for answer on 7.3.1979 in the Lok Sabha have already been answered by the Prime Minister on 22.11.1978. An exhaustive note on the INA treasure was sent to PM's Secretariat vide this Ministry's U.O.No.25/4/NGO-Vol.III dated 21.12.1978. We have no information on part (c) and PM's Office U.O.No.PMS-4994 dated 24.2.1979 contains the answer to part (d). *g n Quib*

2. In view of the foregoing it would be appropriate if the present question is also answered by the Prime Minister.

3. PM's Office may kindly accept the question and convey their acceptance to the Lok Sabha under intimation to this Ministry.

Sd/-

(M. L. Suri)

Deputy Secretary(Establishment)

PM's Office(Shri N.S.Sreeraman, PS to PM)
M.E.A.U.O.No.25/4/NGO-Vol.III dated 26.2.1979

Copy to the Lok Sabha Secretariat (Question Branch), New Delhi, w.r.t. their U.O.No.S.Q.4785/7.3/79-Q dated 22.2.1979.

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26/2
7c (M. L. Suri)
Deputy Secretary(Est)
26.2.79

MOST IMMEDIATE

PARLIAMENT QUESTION

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

Subject:- Starred Question Dy. No. 4785 for 7-3-79
regarding treasure box belonging to Netaji
Subhas Chandra Bose.

- - -

A copy of the Lok Sabha ^{question} on the above subject
alongwith the Lok Sabha Sectt. u.o. No. SQ 4785/7.3/
79-Q dated the 22nd Feb. 1979 is enclosed. As the
information asked for in the question mainly relates
to the Ministry of External Affairs, they are requested
to accept transfer of the ^{question} and convey the acceptan-
ce to the Lok Sabha Sectt. under intimation to this
office.

As regard part (d) of the question, it may be
mentioned that there is no proposal for such an enquiry.

(N.S. Greeraman)
private secretary to
the prime minister

M.E.A. (Shri K.P. Balakrishnan, Director, Establishment)
P.M.'s Office u.o. No. PM5-4994 dt. 24-2-79

Min. of External Affairs

A somewhat similar question (Starred
Qn. No. 60) was answered by P.M. in the Lok
Sabha on 22.11.78. Parts (a) and (b) of the present
question are covered by the earlier answer.
Parts (c) and (d) concern the P.M.'s Secretariat.
We may, therefore, retransfer the present question
to P.M.'s office. J.F.A.

V. N. Swamy
26.2.79

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Pl. put up to
Liaison N.S. file
on the subject

26/2/79
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F. Jay N.

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MOST IMMEDIATE

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
(Question Branch)

subject: Starred Question Dy.No. 4785 for 7-3-1979
regarding Treasure box belonging to Netaji Subhas
Chandra Bose.

The Prime Minister's Secretariat is requested kindly to state the facts regarding the above question (copy enclosed) with a view to enable the Speaker to decide the admissibility of the question.

While furnishing the facts, it may please be stated whether the note has been shown to the Minister. In the absence of any indication to this effect, it will be assumed that it has been issued with the approval of the Officer who has signed it.

It may also please be stated whether the Ministry have any objection to the information contained therein being conveyed to the Member.

A reply is requested by **26th February 1979**

Sd/-

~~For Senior Examiner of Question~~
For Senior Examiner of Question

The P.M. Secretariat.

L.S.S.U.O. NO. sq 4785/7.3/79-Q dated the **22nd Feb.79**

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QUESTION FOR THE LOK SABHA

D.No. 4785

Ministry to which the day has been allotted P.M. OFFICE

The question will be put down for the sitting on the:-

7.3.79

TREASURE BOX BELONGING TO NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE
PROFESSOR SAMAR GUHA:

(a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have got all the reports about Netaji's treasure that had been sent to the Government of India by the Government of Japan;

(b) if so, all facts collected upto now;

(c) whether Government had informed Khosla Commission that the file marked as 'Netaji's treasure' which was being handled by the former Additional Secretary to the Prime Minister (Mr. Mohd. Yunus) has destroyed or missing; and

(d) whether Government will institute a thorough inquiry to find out all facts about the missing treasure of Az-ad Hind Government that was carried by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on 17th August, 1945 when he left Saigon by air?

GS/22.2.

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 22ND NOVEMBER, 1978

TREASURE BOX BELONGING TO NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE

*60. SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH:
SHRI SURENDRA BIKRAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a treasure box belonging to the President of Arzee Hukumat-e-Azad Hind, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, was brought to India some years ago;
- (b) if so, when exactly, by whom and in what circumstances;
- (c) where and to whose custody it had been kept since;
- (d) whether it was opened recently;
- (e) if so, when exactly, by whom under whose orders;
- (f) the reasons for opening the box;
- (g) the names of persons who were present when the box was opened;
- (h) the description of the box, and of the method or techniques by which it was opened;
- (i) the detailed inventory of the contents of the box;
- (j) whether the box is lying open with the contents taken out or whether the contents have been replaced and the box re-closed;
- (k) where the box is now kept;
- (l) whether the box and its contents are available for observation and inspection by Members of Parliament; and

(m) if not, the reasons therefor?

A N S W E R

P M

PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI):

(a) to (m): A statement is placed on the table of the House.

(Note for Suppliers detached)

(104)

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STATEMENT LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE IN ANSWER
TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 60 FOR 22-11-1978

(a) whether it is a fact that a treasure box belonging to the President of Arzee Hukumat-e-Azad Hind, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, was brought to India some years ago;

(b) if so, when exactly, by whom and in what circumstances;

(c) where and to whose custody it had been kept since;

(d) whether it was opened recently;

(e) if so, when exactly, by whom under whose orders;

(a) & (b): A box said to contain the treasure that was salvaged from the aircraft in which Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was reported to have met his death was brought to Delhi from Tokyo by an official of the Government of India under instructions from the then Prime Minister in November 1952. It was handed over to him immediately on arrival and was retained by the Ministry of External Affairs temporarily.

(c) The box, which is placed in a diplomatic bag sealed by the Ministry of External Affairs, was entrusted on 30th December 1953 to the National Museum, New Delhi, for safe custody, and has remained with the National Museum since then.

(d) Yes.

(e) & (g): On 9th October, 1978 in the presence of the following Officers:

(1) Shri A.S. Gill, Additional Secretary, Deptt. of Culture.

- (2) Shri M.N. Deshpande, Director General, Archaeological Survey of India.
- (3) Shri C. Sivaramamurti, Former Director, National Museum.
- (4) Dr. P. Banerjee, Assistant Director, National Museum.
- (5) Shri I.D. Mathur, Keeper(L&E) National Museum.
- (6) Dr. N.R. Banerjee, Director, National Museum.

Shri K.P. Balakrishnan, Director (Establishment) and Shri Atish Sinha, Under Secretary, of the Ministry of External Affairs, joined later and left before the contents were sealed again. The box was opened under instructions of the Prime Minister.

(f) the reasons for opening the box;

(f) To verify the observations made in Chapter VI of Shri Shah Nawaz Khan's Report about the contents of the box.

(g) the names of persons who were present when the box was opened;

(h) the description of the box, and of the method or techniques by which it was opened;

(h) The seal of the cloth bag containing the box was opened and the bag seen to contain a steel suitcase. The suitcase was opened with the key tied to the seal of the Diplomatic bag.

(i) the detailed inventory of the contents of the box;

(i) The box was found to contain seventeen packages, the contents of which were medals, rings, chains, wrist watches, ear-rings, pendants, ear-studs, brooches, bangles, fragments of stones, shirt buttons, Signet rings, nose-ring stones, iron nail and other miscellaneous items almost all of which are in damaged and charred condition. The net weight of the articles, excluding weight of wrappers was found to be 13491.25 grammes. An inventory has been prepared.

(j) whether the box is lying open with the contents taken out or whether the contents have been replaced and the box re-closed;

(j) The contents of the box were placed inside the suitcase and bag, and once again sealed with the seal of the National Museum.

(k) where the box is now kept;

(k) In the National Museum.

(l) whether the box and its contents are available for observation and inspection by Members of Parliament; and

(l) & (m): The box has been re-sealed with the contents and hence they are not available for inspection.

(m) if not, the reasons therefor?

.....

~~SECRET.~~

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

.....

Subject:- INA TREASURE.

...

As directed by the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, a copy of the detailed note on the 'INA Treasure' prepared in this Ministry is sent herewith.

Kindly acknowledge receipt.

Ma
(K.P.Balakrishnan.)
Director (Establishment)

Director, National Museum (Dr.N.R.Banerjee)

MRA U.O.NO.25/4/NGO-Vol.III

Dt.21.12.1978

*Issued (me)**h
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~~SECRET.~~

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

....

Subject:- INA TREASURE.

...

As desired by the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, a copy of the detailed note on the " INA Treasure " prepared in this Ministry is sent herewith.

o/c

(K.P.Balakrishnan.)
Director (Establishment)

Prime Minister's Secretariat
MEA U.O.NO.25/4/NGO-VOL.III

Dt.21.12.1978

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INA TREASURE

There is a large degree of uncertainty regarding the early history of the "INA Treasure" from the time Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose left Rangoon in April 1945, carrying a number of valuables with him to the time that certain valuables were handed over to the Indian Liaison Mission in Tokyo on 24th September, 1951 by Shri Ram Murthy, one of Netaji's former associates. Netaji had received sizeable donations from Indian residents in South East Asia, in the form of cash and valuables for financing the INA. On the occasion of his birthday in January 1945 he was weighed against gold. How much of the liquid assets were carried by Netaji during his retreat from Rangoon onwards cannot be ascertained precisely, as was noted by the Netaji Enquiry Committee in 1956. Witnesses examined by the Committee gave widely differing versions of the contents and the value of the treasure carried by Netaji. Apart from differing versions with regard to the number of boxes accompanying him, there was the testimony of one witness to the effect that Netaji had taken 140 lbs. of gold with him and that of another who estimated the valuables carried at Rs.1 crore. One witness whose testimony received some independent corroboration by a Japanese witness was Netaji's personal valet who was apparently present at the time when the boxes containing the valuables were checked before Netaji's departure from Bangkok in August 1945. According to this witness there were four steel cases which contained articles of jewellery commonly worn by Indian women, Pounds and Guineas and some gold wires. In addition to these, four boxes, there was also a small leather

personal
effects and
certain other
valuable

attache case containing Netaji's articles he had brought from Singapore. The Netaji Enquiry Committee found that during his last visit to Singapore and Bangkok, Netaji had disbursed large amounts. The Committee was unable to get any accurate picture of what Netaji carried with him at the time of his departure from Bangkok but contended that some valuables such as ornaments were certainly carried by him. The Committee also found it difficult to reconstruct the events as relevant documents had been destroyed to avoid falling ⁱⁿ to the Allied hands. Some witness had testified that Netaji was not keen on taking the treasure with him and had wanted to leave in Bangkok or Saigon but since ^{none} none was willing to take charge of it, he carried the valuables with him.

/it

2. A number of witnesses had testified to seeing the boxes containing the treasure at the Saigon Airfield just before Netaji's outward flight in the afternoon of 17th August 1945. While, here, again there are widely differing versions, the Committee has taken as conclusive the fact that Netaji carried from Saigon with him "two large leather suit-cases about 30" long containing gold and valuables. " While the committee could not get any estimates of the value of the contents of the suit-cases, the feeling was that it could not be anywhere near the Rs.1 crore mentioned by one witness.

3. After the plane crash at Taihoku on the 18th August, Col. Habibur Rahman had enquired the next day from Japanese officers as to what had happened to the baggage, particularly the two leather suit-cases containing valuables. He was told that, while much of the baggage had been burnt, some charred jewellery had been salvaged from the ground and kept in safe custody at the Military Headquarters. The Committee found that

(97)

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there was some discrepancy in the accounts given by the Japanese officers who took part in this operation; while one of them stated that the valuables, which were sealed in a gasoline can, had been kept under guard for only one night in the airfield before delivery to Military Headquarters, another witness stated that it had been kept for four or five days in the air-raid shelter under guard before delivery to Headquarters. It is, however, certain that the valuables were delivered to the Imperial General Headquarters, Tokyo, on 7th September, 1944. The Officers who took charge of these as well as Col. Habibur Rahman mentioned that the valuables were in a nailed wooden box which was not sealed; this is a departure from the earlier accounts which mentioned a sealed gasoline can. It would appear that on 9th or 10th September the box containing valuables was taken charge of by Shri Ram Murthy from the Imperial General Headquarters; Shri Ayer was possibly present. The Committee found some discrepancy in the statements of Col. Habibur Rahman, Shri Ram Murthy and Shri Ayer in regard to the circumstances surrounding the handing over the box at the Headquarters; in particular the discrepancies related to the date of delivery and who took charge of the box. According to Col. Habibur Rahman, the seals of the box containing the valuables were found to be broken at the time of delivery; further it appeared to have been tampered with and was much lighter and only half full. The contents were found to be ornaments of gold and jewellery, all charred, mixed and fused with metals and small bits from the wreckage. They were

roughly / separated into three lots according to whether they contained more gold or base metal. Afterwards, they were re-packed in a box and nailed. The weight of the valuables was found to be

11 kgs. This was noted and a rough list was made and signed by Col. Habibur Rahman. A photocopy of the note is available. Col. Rahman left the valuables in the authority which arose in India in succession to Netaji's movements. At the same time, Shri Ayer left 300 gms. of gold and 20,000 Yens in cash with Shri Ram Murthy with similar direction. The list prepared by Col. Habibur Rahman is as follows:

1) Comparatively pure gold in two wooden boxes and paper wrapper (weight includes weight of gold and wooden boxes	... 7 Kg. 900 gms.
ii) One packet of gold mixed with molten metal, iron etc. (weight includes weight of gold, metal iron etc. the paper wrapper)	... 3 Kgs. 100 gms.
<hr/>	
Total	... 11 Kgs.
<hr/>	

4. Shri Ram Murthy kept the valuables and cash with him from 1945 to 1951; it was not kept in a bank as he feared that it might be confiscated by the Occupation authorities. He also did not take any steps to contact any Indian authorities during all these years. The Committee found reason to believe that he denied having the treasure with him; according to Shri Ram Murthy, Shri Ayer had advised him not to take any action till the connected matters of Netaji's case was satisfactorily solved. During this period there were allegations against Shri Ram Murthy in regard to misappropriation of the funds of the late Indian Independence League of which he was the President in Japan as well as the valuables carried by Netaji; Shri Ayer's name had also been associated with these charges. The matter had been referred to the Ministry of External Affairs by the then Head of the Liaison Mission in

/charge of
Shri Ram
Murthy to be
handed over
to any

Tokyo Shri Rama Rao in December 1947. Subsequent Heads of Missions had also reported on suspicions regarding misappropriation on the part of Shri Rama Murthy; the fact that he had *denied* knowledge of existence of the treasure only strengthened the suspicions. In 1951, the Head of the Indian Liaison Mission Shri Chettur had reported that Shri Ram Murthy had become affluent overnight in 1946, "when his compatriots were on the verge of stargation and misery".

5. In 1951, Shri Ayer who was then Director of Publicity in the then Government of Bombay proceeded to Tokyo on what was claimed to be a holiday trip. In Tokyo, he stayed with Shri Ram Murthy and it came to light subsequently that Shri Ram Murthy had also financed Shri Ayer's trip. While in Tokyo, Shri Ayer met the Head of the Indian Liaison Mission Shri Chettur on 29th May 1951 and stated that one of the objectives of his 'Mission' to Tokyo was the recovery of the gold and jewellery which had been collected from the place in which Netaji met his death. He informed Shri Chettur that some part of Netaji's collections had been saved such as fused and molten gold ornaments, which in his *ipinion* was worth about Rs.1 lakh. He dismissed local rumours put the value of the collection at several millions of ruppees. He also informed Shri Chettur that Col.Habibur Rahman and himself had compiled a detailed list of the items in 1945 and he wanted to check these lists before the valuables could be sent to India; he handed over to Shri Chettur photostate copies of letters *written* by Col.Habibur Rahman and by himself to Shri Ram Murthy in 1945. He suggested that the valuables be sent to Delhi by Diplomatic bag in small lots to be disposed of *by* by the government of India in such a manner as it deemed fit.

At the time when the valuables, some gold and Yen 20000/- had been left with Shri Ram Murthy

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[Handwritten signature]

It would appear from subsequent records that Shri Ayer had inspected the valuables on 6th June 1951 while in Tokyo, and compared the list with the original list left by Col.Habibur Rahman. The following details have been given in hand-written note by by him :-

1)	Comparatively pure gold in papers bundles only (the increase in weight is apparently due to different scales used for weighing)	8.5 kgs.
11)	Gold mixed with molten metal etc.	3.0 kgs.

	Total 11.5 kgs.

6. It is interesting to note that there was no mention in the new list of two wooden boxes, whose weight had also included in the weight as assessed by Col.Habibur Rahman. If one takes this into account, the increase in weight during second weighing by Shri Ayer would be even more substantial.

7. Shri Chettur was instructed by the Government of India to take over the valuables should Shri Ayer hand them over to the Mission. Subsequently, instructions were sent out to the effect that the Mission's endeavour should be to get possession of all the treasure on behalf of Government and to keep it in safe custody pending instructions in its disposal. However, Shri Ayer did not hand over the treasure to the Mission during his visit and left Tokyo for India on 11th June, 1951.

8. On his return to India, Shri Ayer met the Prime Minister in September, 1951. Subsequently, instructions from Prime Minister, our Mission in Tokyo was asked on 23rd September, 1951 to take over from Shri Ram Murthy all the INA treasure in his possession and keep it in the Mission until further instructions.

.....7/-

The Mission was also asked to intimate the nature and quantity of ^{the} treasure. On 24th September 1951, the First Secretary of the Mission Shri V.C.Trivedi and the Registrar went to Shri Ram Murthy's house and took possession of the various packages after opening and weighing them with the Mission's scales in the presence of Shri Ram Murthy's ~~wife~~ and his wife. It was found that there were three cloth bundles containing valuables, a paper package containing gold pieces and Yen 20,000 in cash. The list prepared by the Mission indicating the weights of various packages was sent to the Ministry. Subsequently, there is record of the valuables having been weighed twice; one in the Ministry of External Affairs soon after their arrival in India (the date is not specified but it is somewhere around 1.12.1952) and lastly in the National Museum on instructions of Prime Minister on 9.10.78. The following table has been prepared to compare the weights of individual items as found on the three occasions:-

		Weight indicated by Indian Mission in Tokyo at the time of taking over (24.9.1951)	Weight found on inspection in MEA after arrival (1.12.1952)?	Weight found on inspection on 9.10.78
<u>BUNDLE I</u>	Package 1	400 gms.	399.90 gms.	389.5 gms.
	Package 2	2 Kgs. 560 gms	2 Kgs. 447.07 gms	3.054 Kgs.
	Package 3	325 gms	315.70 gms	318 gms.
	Package 4	325 gms	314.60 gms	318 gms
	Package 5	700 gms	624.32 gms	628 gms
	Package 6	1 kg. 700 gms	1 kg. 643.65 gms	1656.5 gms
	Package 7	825 gms	797.05 gms	812 gms
	Package 8	425 gms	424.75 gms	425.6 gms
	Package 9	320 gms	303.55 gms	307.5 gms
	Package 10	425 gms	415.55 gms	419.7 gms
	Package 11	105 gms	108.95 gms	101 gms
	Package 12	200 gms	201.55 gms	205.0 gms
	Package 13	50 gms	44.22 gms	46 gms
	Package 14	50 gms	48.05 gms	50.5 gms.
<u>BUNDLE II</u>		3,500 kgs. } ??	3.442 gms	3.493.2 gms
		1,600 kgs }	Not weighed	9665 grms.
<u>Ayer's lot</u>				
Nine pieces of gold		300 gms	298.75 gms	300.05 gms

9. At the time of taking over of the valuables in Tokyo Shri Chettur pointed out that the weight as found by the Mission was more than what was shown in Col. Habibur Rahman's letter. The latter had also not mentioned the third package containing dust and base metal; according to Shri Ram Murthy this had been omitted as it was practically worthless. Shri Chettur found two suspicious circumstances, one that the pieces of gold handed over by Shri Ram Murthy appeared to be bright and completely untarnished and did not appear to have been kept in custody for nearly six years as was claimed. Shri Ayer, who was supposed to have left the gold pieces with Shri Ram Murthy in 1945 had asserted that the pieces were exactly in the form in which he had brought them from Saigon. Further, the 20,000 Yen handed over to the Mission was in the notes then current and not in the notes current in 1945. Shri Chettur was at that time able to get a confidential report from the Japanese Foreign Ministry on the question of the treasure. According to this, Netaji had substantial quantity of gold ornaments and precious stones in Saigon but was allowed to carry only two/suit-cases on the ill fated flight. Even those two suit-cases, according to Shri Chettur, must have carried very much more than what was handed over by Shri Ram Murthy to the Mission in 1951. There were also uncertainties surrounding the fate of the bulk of the treasure which Netaji had left in Saigon itself; that it was substantial is indicated by the fact that on 26th January 1945, Netaji had been weighed against gold. Against this background, Shri Chettur felt that it was difficult to believe that the 300 grams of gold handed over by Shri Ram Murthy to the Mission represented all that Shri Ayer had brought from Saigon. Shri Chettur drew the conclusion that Shri Ayer,

apprehensive of the early conclusion of the Peace Treaty, had come to Tokyo to "divide the loot and salve his and Shri Ram Murthy's conscience by the handing over of a small quantity to the Government in the hope that by doing so, he would also succeed in drawing a red herring across the trail".

10. The Netaji Enquiry Committee in 1956 has not drawn any specific conclusions on whether the treasure had been misappropriated, and if so, by whom. The Committee concluded that the charred and damaged pieces of gold and jewellery etc. which are in the National Museum formed a part of Netaji's baggage in his last journey and were salvaged from the Taihoku Airport and later recovered from Shri Ram Murthy. The Committee also found that what was handed over by Shri Ram Murthy in 1951 tallied with the list signed by Col. Habibur Rahman. But the Committee could reach no conclusion on how much of valuables were carried by Netaji in his last flight and how much of it was recovered, particularly since the two suit-cases said to have been taken by Netaji had not been weighed; the Committee was of the view that the quantity that has been recovered was much less than all that Netaji carried with him. In view of the discrepancies in statements relating to the conclusion of the valuables from Taihoku Airport, their subsequent custody and handing over to Netaji's associates, the Committee expressed the opinion that "it was far from clear as to what was collected from Taihoku Airport, whether and when the container was changed, whether there was any subtraction and who took delivery of it in Tokyo and when". The Committee suggested that in case a separate inquiry into this was considered necessary, such an inquiry would have to cover not only the treasure carried by Netaji on his last journey but also examination of the entire assests and liabilities, in cash and kind, of the Provisional

Government of Azad Hind. The Committee was however was not sure whether such an inquiry would serve any purpose after the lapse of time especially since whatever records there might have been, had been destroyed.

11. The one-man Inquiry Commission headed Justice Khosla in Report dated 30th June 1974 did^{not} go into any detail on the subject of the treasure. The Commission had not specifically enquired into this matter. The Commission has noted a suggestion made to it that part of the treasure had been misappropriated by Shri Ram Murthy and his brother J. Murthy. But the Commission could not find any satisfactory proof of such misappropriation and felt that "no useful purpose could be served by pursuing a quest which was not likely to yield anything definite or worthwhile".

12. In October 1951, our Ambassador in Tokyo was asked whether the treasure could not be brought over to India as our Peace Treaty with Japan had come into force. The Mission proposed on 27th October 1952 that the valuables be sent with Shri Damle Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, who was on a visit to Tokyo at that time and was returning to India on 7th November. The Mission felt that it was not necessary to refer the matter to the Japanese Government who had evinced no interest in the matter. Due to delay in the flight Shri Damle, reached Delhi on the 10th evening by PANAM flight No. 3. At the request of Ministry of External Affairs, instructions were issued to the Customs examination under the 'note and pass' procedure on the understanding that the articles would be assessed later and customs duty paid by the Ministry of External Affairs. An import permit from the Reserve Bank of India was also not insisted upon.

13. According to the records, Shri Damle on arrival delivered the valuables to Shri H. Dayal, then Joint Secretary (Administration) in the Ministry of External Affairs. The suitcases were kept in his cabinet. Thereafter, on an unspecified date, the valuables were checked and weighed. The results of the weighing are in the table given earlier (it is to be noted that neither the earlier list sent by our Mission in Tokyo indicating the weights as found at the time of taking over of valuables from Shri Ram Murthy nor the list as prepared in the Ministry after arrival of the items here are signed or authenticated). The valuables were considered to be worth about Rs. 90,000 at that time; this is presumably based on a message from the Mission in Tokyo before despatch of the goods that they might be insured for Rs. 90,000/- Prime Minister inspected the articles on 9.1.1953. He minuted as follows:-

"I saw this treasure. It made a poor show. Apart from some gold pieces, it consisted of charred remains of some rather cheap jewellery chiefly some silver and gold articles, all broken up. I think that this should be kept as it is. Apart from everything else, it is some evidence of the aircraft accident and subsequent fire".

14. The question of exempting the valuables from Customs duty was taken up with the Ministry of Finance. It was suggested to the Ministry of External Affairs that in case these were considered as articles of historical value which would be kept in a public place, exemption could be given. This was confirmed by the Ministry and exemption from customs duty was accorded.

15. As regards the custody of the box containing valuables this was taken over by Shri Devi Dayal, Deputy Secretary (Administration) on 26th September, 1953 and deposited in the Treasurer's safe. On 5th October 1953, the box was double

sealed with an NGO seal and a PM's Secretariat seal in presence of Deputy Secretary(Administration). It is seen from a subsequent note that the box containing the valuables had been put inside a sealed bag and deposited in the cash chest of the Ministry.

16. The Ministry of External Affairs was in touch with the PM's Secretariat in regard to the eventual disposal of these valuables. On 12.11.1953 the Prime Minister suggested that the Ministry of Education take charge of the treasure after inspection. Following this, Shri Humayun Kabir of the Ministry of Education Shri J.K.Roy, Superintendent: Central Asian Antiquities Museum (National Museum) and Joint Secretary(Administration), Ministry of External Affairs, inspected the treasure on 27.11.1953. Thereafter Shri Kabir recorded a note to the effect that the items were not suitable for exhibition and therefore these could best be handed over to the family of Netaji Bose, if necessary, after a brief exhibition in Delhi. The then Minister of Education, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad suggested that these items be handed over to Netaji's family. However, Prime Minister in a minute recorded on 2.12.1953 stated that the articles could not be sent to the Netaji's family as the family had shown no interest in them and were not prepared to admit that Netaji had died in that accident. PM stated that while there was no question of holding an exhibition of these articles, since they were of historical value, they should be kept carefully. Following these instructions, the Ministry of Education decided that the treasure locked in a box and sealed, would be deposited in the National Museum. This was done on 30th December, 1953. In a note recorded on the taking over, which has been signed by Shri J.K.

Roy, superintendent, National Museum, Shri A.C. Banerji of the National Museum and Shri Devi Dyal, Deputy Secretary (Administration) Ministry of External Affairs, it is stated that the box containing the treasure as per list on the file was opened, contents checked and thereafter re-locked and re-sealed with the NGO seal of the Ministry of External Affairs and handed over along with the key to Shri Roy. Shri Roy has recorded on 2.1.1954 that the treasure has been safely deposited in the National Museum.

17. As regards the sum of Yen 20,000/- which had been handed over to the Embassy of India, Tokyo, by Shri Ram Murthy, this amount was taken into Government account for purposes of transfer to India. This amount, equivalent to Rs. 265/- and 10 annas, remained in the Ministry of External Affairs pending a decision on its disposal. On 2.12.54, Prime Minister's Secretariat instructed that this amount be handed over to the INA Relief Fund of the AICC. This was accordingly done on 16.12.1954, against a receipt issued by the AICC. The papers relating to the INA Treasure had been made available to the Netaji Inquiry Committee in 1956. The Report of the Committee indicates that the Committee inspected the valuables at the National Museum twice on the second occasion along with Kundan Singh, Netaji's personal valet, who identified a number of articles as belonging to Netaji. It would appear after the inspection, the box was re-sealed with the NGO seal of the Ministry of External Affairs.

18. The box was opened again on 9.10.78 on Prime Minister's instructions. Additional Secretary, Department of Culture, Director, National Museum, Director General; Archaeological Survey of India, were present at the opening; representatives of the Ministry of External Affairs were also present though

not at the initial opening of the box. Detailed information on the results of examination of the articles would be available with the Department of Culture and Prime Minister's Office. However, the weights of different packages, as now ascertained by Museum officials have been give in the table on page 7 . This information was provided by the Prime Minister's office.

INA TREASURE

There is a large degree of uncertainty regarding the early history of the "INA Treasure" from the time Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose left Rangoon in April 1945, carrying a number of valuables with him to the time that certain valuables were handed over to the Indian Liaison Mission in Tokyo on 24th September 1951 by Shri Ram Murthy, one of Netaji's former associates. Netaji had received sizeable donations from Indian residents in South East Asia, in the form of cash and valuables for financing the INA. On the occasion of his birthday in January 1945 he was weighed against gold. How much of the liquid assets were carried by Netaji during his retreat from Rangoon onwards cannot be ascertained precisely, as was noted by the Netaji Inquiry Committee in 1956. Witnesses examined by the Committee gave widely differing versions of the contents and the value of the treasure carried by Netaji. Apart from differing versions with regards to the number of boxes accompanying him, there was the testimony of one witness to the effect that Netaji had taken 140 lbs. of gold with him and that of another who estimated the valuables carried at Rs.1 crore. One witness whose testimony received some independent corroboration by a Japanese witness was Netaji's personal valet who was apparently present at the time when the boxes containing the valuables were checked before Netaji's departure from Bangkok in August 1945. According to this witness there were four steel cases which contained articles of jewellery commonly worn by Indian women, Pounds and Guineas and some gold wires. In addition to these four boxes, there was also a small leather attache case containing Netaji's personal effects and certain other valuable articles he had brought from Singapore. The Netaji Inquiry Committee found that during his last visit to Singapore and Bangkok, Netaji had disbursed large amounts. The Committee was unable to get any accurate picture of what Netaji carried with him at the time of his

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departure from Bangkok but ^{concluded that} some valuables such as ornaments were certainly carried by him. The Committee also found it difficult to reconstruct the events as ^{relevant} documents had been destroyed to avoid falling into Allied hands. Some witnesses had testified that Netaji was not keen on taking the treasure with him and had wanted to leave it in Bangkok or in Saigon but since no one was willing to take charge of it, he carried the valuables with him.

2. A number of witnesses had testified to seeing the boxes containing the treasure at the Saigon airfield just before Netaji's outward flight in the afternoon of 17th August 1945. While, here again, there are widely differing versions, the Committee has taken as conclusive the fact that Netaji carried from Saigon with him "two large leather suit-cases about 30" long containing gold and valuables". While the Committee could not get any estimate of the value of the contents of the suit-cases, the feeling was that it could not be anywhere near the Re.1 crore mentioned by one witness.

3. After the plane crash at Taihoku on the 18th August, Col. Habibur Rahman had enquired the next day from Japanese officers as to what had happened to the baggage, particularly the two leather suit-cases containing valuables. He was told that, while much of the baggage had been burnt, some charred jewellery had been salvaged from the ground and kept in safe custody at the Military Headquarters. The Committee found that there was some discrepancy in the accounts given by the Japanese officers who took part in this operation; while one of them stated that the valuables, which were sealed in a gasoline can, had been kept under guard for only one night in the air field before delivery to Military Headquarters, another witness stated that it had been kept for four or five days in the air-raid shelter ^{under} ~~on~~ guard before delivery to Headquarters. It is, however, certain that the valuables were delivered to the Imperial General Headquarters, Tokyo, on 7th September. The officers who took charge of these

as well as Col. Habibur Rahman mentioned that the valuables were in a nailed wooden box which was not sealed; this is a departure from the earlier accounts which mentioned a sealed gasoline can. It would appear that on 9th or 10th September the box containing valuables was taken charge of by Shri Ram Murthy from the Imperial General Headquarters; Shri Ayer was possibly present. The Committee found some discrepancy in the statements of Col. Habibur Rahman, Shri Ram Murthy and Shri Ayer in regard to the circumstances \angle the box \angle surrounding the box at the Headquarters; in particular the discrepancies related to the date of delivery and who took charge of the box. According to Col. Habibur Rahman, the seals of the box containing the valuables were found to be broken at the time of delivery; further it appeared to have been tampered with and was much lighter and only half full. The contents were found to be ornaments of gold and jewellery, all charred, mixed and fused with metals and small bits from the wreckage. They were roughly separated into three lots according to whether they contained more gold or base metal. Afterwards, they were re-packed in a box and nailed. The weight of the valuables were found to be 11 kgs. This was noted and a rough list was made and signed by Col. Habibur Rahman. A photocopy of the note is available. Col. Rahman left the valuables in the charge of Shri Ram Murthy to be handed over to any authority which arose in India in succession to Netaji's movements. At the same time, Shri Ayer left 300 gms. of gold and 20,000 Yens in cash with Shri Ram Murthy with similar direction. The list prepared by Col. Habibur Rahman is as follows:-

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|---|--------------------|
| 1) Comparatively pure gold in two wooden boxes and paper wrapper (weight includes weight of gold and wooden boxes | ... 7 kg. 900 gms. |
| ii) One ^{packet or} box of gold mixed with molten metal, iron etc. (weight includes weight of gold, metal, iron etc. the paper wrapper) | ... 3 kg. 100 gms. |
| Total | ... <u>11 kgs.</u> |

4. Shri Ram Murthy kept the valuables and cash with him from 1945 to 1951; it was not kept in a bank as he feared that it might be confiscated by the Occupation authorities. He also did not take any steps to contact any Indian authorities during all these years. The Committee found reason to believe that he denied having the treasure with him; according to Shri Ram Murthy, Shri Ayer had advised him not to take any action till the connected matter of Netaji's ashes was satisfactorily solved. During this period There were allegations against Shri Ram Murthy in regard to misappropriation of the funds of the late Indian Independence League of which he was the President in Japan as well as the valuables carried by Netaji; Shri Ayer's name had also been associated with these charges. The matter had been referred to the Ministry of External Affairs by the then Head of the Liaison Mission in Tokyo Shri Rama Rao in December 1947. Subsequent Heads of Missions had also reported on suspicions regarding misappropriation on the part of Shri Ram Murthy; the fact that he had denied knowledge of existence of the treasure only strengthened the suspicions. In 1951, the Head of the Indian Liaison Mission Shri Chettur had reported that Shri Ram Murthy had become affluent overnight in 1946, "when his compatriots were on the verge of starvation and misery".

5. In 1951, Shri Ayer who was then Director of Publicity in the then Government of Bombay proceeded to Tokyo on what was claimed to be a holiday trip. In Tokyo, he stayed with Shri Ram Murthy and it came to light subsequently that Shri Ram Murthy had also financed Shri Ayer's trip. While in Tokyo, Shri Ayer met the Head of the Indian Liaison Mission Shri Chettur on 29th May 1951 and stated that one of the objectives of his "mission" to Tokyo was the recovery of the gold and jewellery which had been collected from the plane in which Netaji met his death.

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He informed Shri Chettur that some part of Netaji's collections had been saved, such as fused and molten gold ornaments, which in his opinion was worth about Rs.1 lakh. He dismissed the local rumours put the value of the collection at several millions of rupees. He also informed Shri Chettur that Col. Habibur Rahman and himself had compiled a detailed list of the items in 1945 and he wanted to check these lists before the valuables could be sent to India; he handed over to Shri Chettur photostat copies of letters written by Col. Habibur Rahman and by himself to Shri Ram Murthy at the time when the valuables, some gold and Yen 20,000 had been left with Shri Ram Murthy in 1945. He suggested that the valuables be sent to Delhi by diplomatic bag ⁱⁿ small lots to be disposed of by the Government of India in such a manner as ^{it} deemed fit. It would appear from subsequent records that Shri Ayer had inspected the valuables on 6th June 1951 while in Tokyo, and compared the list with the original list left by Col. Habibur Rahman. The following details have been given in hand-written note by him:-

1)	Comparatively pure gold in paper bundles only:	8.5 kgs.
	(the increase in weight is apparently due to different scales used for weighing)	
11)	Gold mixed with molten metal etc.	3.0 kgs.

	Total ...	<u>11.5 kgs.</u>

6. It is interesting to note that there was no mention in the new list of two wooden boxes, whose weight had also included in the weight as assessed by Col. Habibur Rahman. If one takes this into account, the increase in weight during second weighing by Shri Ayer would be even more substantial.

7. Shri Chettur was instructed by the Government of India to take over the valuables should Shri Ayer hand them over to the Mission. Subsequently, instructions were sent out to the effect that the Mission's endeavour should be to get possession of all the treasure on behalf of Government and to keep it in safe custody pending instructions on its disposal.

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However, Shri Ayer did not hand over the treasure to the Mission during his visit and left Tokyo for India on 11th June 1951.

8. On his return to India, Shri Ayer met the Prime Minister in September 1951. Subsequently, instructions from Prime Minister, our Mission in Tokyo was asked on 23rd September 1951 to take over from Shri Ram Murthy all the INA Treasure in his possession and keep it in the Mission until further instructions. The Mission was also asked to intimate the nature and quantity of the treasure. On 24th September 1951, the First Secretary of the Mission Shri V.C. Trivedi and the Registrar went to Shri Ram Murthy's house and took possession of the various packages after opening and weighing them with the Mission's scales in the presence of Shri Ram Murthy and his wife. It was found that there were three cloth bundles containing valuables, a paper package containing gold pieces and Yen 20,000 in cash. The list prepared by the Mission indicating the ^{weight} ~~dates~~ of various packages was sent to the Ministry. Subsequently, there is record of the valuables having been weighed twice: once in the Ministry of External Affairs soon after their arrival in India (the date is not specified but it is somewhere around 1.12.1952) and lastly in the National Museum on instructions of Prime Minister on 9.10.1978. The following table has been prepared to compare the weights of individual items as found on the three occasions:-

Bundle I

	Weight indicated by Indian Mission in Tokyo at the time of taking over (24.9.1951)	Weight found on inspection in MEA after arrival (1.12.1952)?	Weight found on inspection on 9.10.1978
Package 1	400 grams	399.90 grams	389.5 grams
Package 2	2 kgs. 560 grams	2 kgs. 447.07g	3.054 kgs.
Package 3	325 grams	315.70 grams	318 grams
Package 4	325 grams	314.60 gams	318 grams
Package 5	700 grams	624.32 grams	628 grams
Package 6	1 kg. 700 grams	1 kg. 643.65g	1656.5 grams
Package 7	825 grams	797.05 grams	812 grams
Package 8	425 grams	424.75 grams	425.6 grams
Package 9	320 grams	303.55 grams	307.5 grams
Package 10	425 grams	415.55 grams	419.7 grams
Package 11	105 grams	108.05 grams	101 grams
Package 12	200 grams	201.55 grams	205.0 grams
Package 13	50 grams	44.22 grams	46 grams
Package 14	50 grams	48.05 grams	50.5 grams

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Bundle II

Bundle III

1

2

3

4

3,500 lbs.

3.442 gms

3.493.2 grams

1,600 kgs.

Not weighed

9665 grams

Ayer's lot

Nine pieces of gold

300 grams

.75
298 gms.

300.05 gms

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9. At the time of taking over of the valuables in Tokyo, Shri Chettur pointed out that the weight as found by the Mission was more than what was shown in Col; Habibur Rahman's letter. The latter had also not mentioned the third package containing dust and base metal; according to Shri Ram Murthy this had been omitted as it was practically worthless. Shri Chettur found two suspicious circumstances, one that the pieces of gold handed over by Shri Ram Murthy appeared to be bright and completely untarnished and did not appear to have been kept in custody for nearly six years as was claimed. Shri Ayer, who was supposed to have left the gold pieces with Shri Ram Murthy in 1945 had asserted that the pieces were exactly in the form in which he had brought them from Saigon. Further, the 20,000 Yen handed over to the Mission was in the notes then current and not in the notes current in 1945. Shri Chettur was at that time able to get a confidential report from the Japanese Foreign Ministry on the question of the treasure. According to this, Netaji had substantial quantity of gold ornaments and precious stones in Saigon but was allowed to carry only two suit-cases on the ill-fated flight. Even these two suit-cases, according to Shri Chettur, must have carried very much more than what was handed over by Shri Ram Murthy to the Mission in 1951. There were also uncertainties surrounding the fate of the bulk of the treasure which Netaji had left in Saigon itself; that it was substantial is indicated by the fact that on 26th January 1945, Netaji had been weighed against gold. Against this background, Shri Chettur felt that it was difficult to believe that the 300 grams of gold handed over by Shri Ram Murthy to the Mission represented all that Shri Ayer had brought from Saigon. Shri Chettur drew the conclusion that Shri Ayer, apprehensive of the early conclusion of the Peace Treaty, had come to

Tokyo to "divide the loot and salve his and Shri Ram Murthy's conscience by the handing over of a small quantity to the Government in the hope that by doing so, he would also succeed in drawing a red herring across the trail".

10. The Netaji Inquiry Committee in 1956 has not drawn any specific conclusions on whether the treasure had been misappropriated, and if so, by whom. The Committee concluded that the churned and damaged pieces of gold and jewellery etc. which are in the National Museum form^{ed} a part of Netaji's baggage in his last journey and were salvaged from the Taihoku Airport and later recovered from Shri Ram Murthy. The Committee also found that what was handed over by Shri Ram Murthy in 1951 tallied with the list signed by Col. Habibur Rahman. But the Committee could reach no conclusion on how much of valuables were carried by Netaji in his last flight and how much of it was recovered, particularly since the two suit-cases said to have been taken by Netaji had not been weighed ; The Committee was of the view that the quantity that has been recovered was much less than all that Netaji carried with him. In view of the discrepancies in statements relating to the conclusion of the valuables from Taihoku Airport, their subsequent custody and handing over to Netaji's associates, the Committee expressed the opinion that "it was far from clear as to what was collected from Taihoku Airport, whether and when the container was changed, whether there was any subtraction and who took delivery of it in Tokyo and when." The Committee suggested that in case a separate inquiry into this^e was considered necessary, such an inquiry would have to cover not only the treasure carried by Netaji on his last journey but also examination of the entire assets and liabilities, in cash and kind, of the Provisional Government of Azad Hind. The Committee was however was not sure whether such an inquiry would serve any purpose after the lapse of time especially since whatever records there might have been, had been destroyed.

11. The one-man Inquiry Commission headed by Justice Khosla in Report dated 30th June 1974 did not go into any detail on the subject of the treasure. The Commission had not specifically enquired into this matter. The Commission has noted a suggestion made to it that part of the treasure had been misappropriated by Shri Ram Murthy and his brother Shri J. Murthy. But the Commission could not find any satisfactory proof of such misappropriation and felt that "no useful purpose could be served by pursuing a quest which was not likely to yield anything definite or worthwhile".

12. In October 1952, our Ambassador in Tokyo was asked whether the treasure could now be brought over to India as our Peace Treaty with Japan had come into force. The Mission proposed on 27th October 1952 that the valuables be sent with Shri Damle, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, who was on a visit to Tokyo at that time and was returning to India on 7th November. The Mission felt that it was not necessary to refer the matter to the Japanese Government who had evinced no interest in the matter. Due to delay in the flight Shri Damle reached Delhi on the 10th evening by PANAM flight No.3. At the request of the Ministry of External Affairs, instructions were issued to the Customs to release the attache cases containing the valuables without customs examination under the 'note and pass' procedure on the understanding that the articles would be assessed later and customs duty paid by the Ministry of External Affairs. An import permit from the Reserve Bank of India was also not insisted upon.

13. According to the records, Shri Damle on arrival delivered the valuables to Shri H. Dayal, then Joint Secretary (Administration) in the Ministry of External Affairs. The suit-cases was kept in his cabinet. Thereafter, on an unspecified date, the valuables were checked and weighed. The results of the weighing are in the table given earlier (It is to be noted that neither the earlier list sent by our Mission in Tokyo indicating the weights as found at the time of taking over of the valuables from Shri Ram Murthy nor the list as prepared in the

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Ministry after arrival of the items here are signed ^{or} ~~and~~ authenticated). The valuables were considered to be worth about Rs.90,000 at that time; this is presumably based on a message from the Mission in Tokyo before despatch of the goods that they might be insured for Rs.90,000. Prime Minister inspected the articles on 9.1.1953. He minuted as follows:-

"I saw this treasure. It made a poor show. Apart from some gold pieces, it consisted of charred remains ~~of~~ ^{like} cheap jewellery chiefly some silver and gold articles, all broken up. I think ^{that} this should be kept as it is. Apart from everything else, it is some evidence of the aircraft accident and subsequent fire".

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departure from Bangkok but ^{Concluded that} some valuables such as ornaments were certainly carried by him. The Committee also found it difficult to reconstruct the events as ^{relevant} documents had been destroyed to avoid falling into Allied hands. Some witnesses had testified that Netaji was not keen on taking the treasure with him and had wanted to leave it in Bangkok or in Saigon but since no one was willing to take charge of it, he carried the valuables with him.

2. A number of witnesses had testified to seeing the boxes containing the treasure at the Saigon airfield just before Netaji's outward flight in the afternoon of 17th August 1945. While, here again, there are widely differing versions, the Committee has taken as conclusive the fact that Netaji carried from Saigon with him "two large leather suit-cases about 30" long containing gold and valuables". While the Committee could not get any estimate of the value of the contents of the suit-cases, the feeling was that it could not be anywhere near the Rs.1 crore mentioned by one witness.

3. After the plane crash at Taihoku on the 18th August, Col. Habibur Rahman had enquired the next day from Japanese officers as to what had happened to the baggage, particularly the two leather suit-cases containing valuables. He was told that, while much of the baggage had been burnt, some charred jewellery had been salvaged from the ground and kept in safe custody at the Military Headquarters. The Committee found that there was some discrepancy in the accounts given by the Japanese officers who took part in this operation; while one of them stated that the valuables, which were sealed in a gasoline can, had been kept under guard for only one night in the air field before delivery to Military Headquarters, another witness stated that it had been kept for four or five days in the air-raid shelter ^{under} on guard before delivery to Headquarters. It is, however, certain that the valuables were delivered to the Imperial General Headquarters, Tokyo, on 7th September. The officers who took charge of these

as well as Col. Habibur Rahman mentioned that the valuables were in a nailed wooden box which was not sealed; this is a departure from the earlier accounts which mentioned a sealed gasoline can. It would appear that on 9th or 10th September the box containing valuables was taken charge of by Shri Ram Murthy from the Imperial General Headquarters; Shri Ayer was possibly present. The Committee found some discrepancy in the statements of Col. Habibur Rahman, Shri Ram Murthy and Shri Ayer in regard to the circumstances ^{the box} ^{surrounding} at the Headquarters; in particular the discrepancies related to the date of delivery and who took charge of the box. According to Col. Habibur Rahman, the seals of the box containing the valuables were found to be broken at the time of delivery; further it appeared to have been tampered with and was much lighter and only half full. The contents were found to be ornaments of gold and jewellery, all charred, mixed and fused with metals and small bits from the wreckage. They were roughly separated into three lots according to whether they contained more gold or base metal. Afterwards, they were re-packed in a box and nailed. The weight of the valuables was found to be 11 kgs. This was noted and a rough list was made and signed by Col. Habibur Rahman. A photocopy of the note is available. Col. Rahman left the valuables in the charge of Shri Ram Murthy to be handed over to any authority which arose in India in succession to Netaji's movements. At the same time, Shri Ayer left 300 gms. of gold and 20,000 Yens in cash with Shri Ram Murthy with similar direction. The list prepared by Col. Habibur Rahman is as follows:-

i) Comparatively pure gold in two wooden boxes and paper wrapper (weight includes weight of gold and wooden boxes	... 7 kg. 200 gms.
ii) One ^{part} box of gold mixed with molten metal, iron etc. (weight includes weight of gold, metal, iron etc. the paper wrapper)	... 3 kg. 100 gms.
Total	... 11 kgs.

4. Shri Ram Murthy kept the valuables and cash with him from 1945 to 1951; it was not kept in a bank as he feared that it might be confiscated by the Occupation authorities. He also did not take any steps to contact any Indian authorities during all these years. The Committee found reason to believe that he denied having the treasure with him; according to Shri Ram Murthy, Shri Ayer had advised him not to take any action till the connected matter of Netaji's ashes was satisfactorily solved. During this period there were allegations against Shri Ram Murthy in regard to misappropriation of the funds of the late Indian Independence League of which he was the President in Japan as well as the valuables carried by Netaji; Shri Ayer's name had also been associated with these charges. The matter had been referred to the Ministry of External Affairs by the then Head of the Liaison Mission in Tokyo Shri Rama Rao in December 1947. Subsequent Heads of Missions had also reported on suspicions regarding misappropriation on the part of Shri Ram Murthy; the fact that he had denied knowledge of existence of the treasure only strengthened the suspicions. In 1951, the Head of the Indian Liaison Mission Shri Chettur had reported that Shri Ram Murthy had become affluent overnight in 1946, "when his compatriots were on the verge of starvation and misery".

5. In 1951, Shri Ayer who was then Director of Publicity in the then Government of Bombay proceeded to Tokyo on what was claimed to be a holiday trip. In Tokyo, he stayed with Shri Ram Murthy and it came to light subsequently that Shri Ram Murthy had also financed Shri Ayer's trip. While in Tokyo, Shri Ayer met the Head of the Indian Liaison Mission Shri Chettur on 29th May 1951 and stated that one of the objectives of his "mission" to Tokyo was the recovery of the gold and jewellery which had been collected from the plane in which Netaji met his death.

He informed Shri Chettur that some part of Netaji's collections had been saved, such as fused and molten gold ornaments, which in his opinion was worth about Rs.1 lakh. He dismissed the local rumours put the value of the collection at several millions of rupees. He also informed Shri Chettur that Col. Habibur Rahman and himself had compiled a detailed list of the items in 1945 and he wanted to check these lists before the valuables could be sent to India; he handed over to Shri Chettur photostat copies of letters written by Col. Habibur Rahman and by himself to Shri Ram Murthy at the time when the valuables, some gold and Yen 20,000 had been left with Shri Ram Murthy in 1945. He suggested that the valuables be sent to Delhi by diplomatic bag ⁱⁿ by small lots to be disposed of by the Government of India in such a manner as ^{it} deemed fit. It would appear from subsequent records that Shri Ayer had inspected the valuables on 6th June 1951 while in Tokyo, and compared the list with the original list left by Col. Habibur Rahman. The following details have been given in hand-written note by him:-

i)	Comparatively pure gold in paper bundles only:	8.5 kgs.
ii)	(the increase in weight is apparently due to different scales used for weighing)	
ii)	Gold mixed with molten metal etc.	3.0 kgs.
Total ...		<u>11.5 kgs.</u>

6. It is interesting to note that there was no mention in the new list of two wooden boxes, whose weight had also included in the weight as assessed by Col. Habibur Rahman. If one takes this into account, the increase in weight during second weighing by Shri Ayer would be even more substantial.

7. Shri Chettur was instructed by the Government of India to take over the valuables should Shri Ayer hand them over to the Mission. Subsequently, instructions were sent out to the effect that the Mission's endeavour should be to get possession of all the treasures on behalf of Government and to keep it in safe custody pending instructions on its disposal.

Package 13
Package 14

50 grams
50 grams

44.22 grms 46.0 grams
48.05 50.5. grams

(69)

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However, Shri Ayer did not hand over the treasure to the Mission during his visit and left Tokyo for India on 11th June 1951.

8. On his return to India, Shri Ayer met the Prime Minister in September 1951. Subsequently, instructions from Prime Minister, our Mission in Tokyo was asked on 23rd September 1951 to take over from Shri Ram Murthy all the INA Treasure in his possession and keep it in the Mission until further instructions. The Mission was also asked to intimate the nature and quantity of the treasure. On 24th September 1951, the First Secretary of the Mission Shri V.C. Trivedi and the Registrar went to Shri Ram Murthy's house and took possession of the various packages after opening and weighing them with the Mission's scales in the presence of Shri Ram Murthy and his wife. It was found that there were three cloth bundles containing valuables, a paper package containing gold pieces and Yen 20,000 in cash. The list prepared by the Mission indicating the ^{weights} ~~dates~~ of various packages was sent to the Ministry. Subsequently, there is record of the valuables having been weighed twice: once in the Ministry of External Affairs soon after their arrival in India (the date is not specified but it is somewhere around 1.12.1952) and lastly in the National Museum on instructions of Prime Minister on 9.10.1978. The following table has been prepared to compare the weights of individual items as found on the three occasions:-

		Weight indicated by Indian Mission in Tokyo at the time of taking over (24.9.1951)	Weight found on inspection in MEA after arrival (1.12.1952)?	Weight found on inspection on 9.10.1978
<u>Bundle I</u>	Package 1	400 grams	399.90 grams	389.5 grams
	Package 2	2 kgs. 560 grams	2 kgs. 447.07g	3.054 kgs.
	Package 3	325 grams	315.70 grams	318 grams
	Package 4	325 grams	314.60 gams	318 grams
	Package 5	700 grams	624.32 grams	628 grams
	Package 6	1 kg. 700 grams	1 kg. 643.65 g	1656.5 grams
	Package 7	825 grams	797.05 grams	812 grams
	Package 8	425 grams	424.75 grams	425.6 grams
	Package 9	320 grams	303.55 grams	307.5 grams
	Package 10	425 grams	415.55 grams	419.7 grams
	Package 11	105 grams	108.05 grams	101 grams
	Package 12	200 grams	201.55 grams	205.0 grams
				46 grams

Bundle IIBundle III

1	2	3	4
	3,500 kgs.	3.442 gms	3.493.2 grams
	1,600 kgs.	Not weighed	9665 grams

Ayer's lot

Nine pieces of gold	300 grams	.75 298 gms.	300.05 gms
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9. At the time of taking over of the valuables in Tokyo, Shri Chettur pointed out that the weight as found by the Mission was more than what was shown in Col; Habibur Rahman's letter. The latter had also not mentioned the third package containing dust and base metal; according to Shri Ram Murthy this had been omitted as it was practically worthless. Shri Chettur found two suspicious circumstances, one that the pieces of gold handed over by Shri Ram Murthy appeared to be bright and completely untarnished and did not appear to have been kept in custody for nearly six years as was claimed. Shri Ayer, who was supposed to have left the gold pieces with Shri Ram Murthy in 1945 had asserted that the pieces were exactly in the form in which he had brought them from Saigon. Further, the 20,000 Yen handed over to the Mission was in the notes then current and not in the notes current in 1945. Shri Chettur was at that time able to get a confidential report from the Japanese Foreign Ministry on the question of the treasure. According to this, Netaji had substantial quantity of gold ornaments and precious stones in Saigon but was allowed to carry only two suit-cases on the ill-fated flight. Even these two suit cases, according to Shri Chettur, must have carried very much more than what was handed over by Shri Ram Murthy to the Mission in 1951. There were also uncertainties surrounding the fate of the bulk of the treasure which Netaji had left in Saigon itself; that it was substantial is indicated by the fact that on 26th January 1945, Netaji had been weighed against gold. Against this background, Shri Chettur felt that it was difficult to believe that the 300 grams of gold handed over by Shri Ram Murthy to the Mission represented all that Shri Ayer had brought from Saigon. Shri Chettur drew the conclusion that Shri Ayer, apprehensive of the

Tokyo to "divide the loot and salve his and Shri Ram Murthy's conscience by the handing over of a small quantity to the Government in the hope that by doing so, he would also succeed in drawing a red herring across the trail".

10. The Netaji Inquiry Committee in 1956 has not drawn any specific conclusions on whether the treasure had been misappropriated, and if so, by whom. The Committee concluded that the charned and damaged pieces of gold and jewellery etc. which are in the National Museum form a part of Netaji's baggage in his last journey and were salvaged from the Taihoku Airport and later recovered from Shri Ram Murthy. The Committee also found that what was handed over by Shri Ram Murthy in 1951 tallied with the list signed by Col. Habibur Rahman. But the Committee could reach no conclusion on how much of valuables were carried by Netaji in his last flight and how much of it was recovered, particularly since the two suit-cases said to have been taken by Netaji had not been weighed; The Committee was of the view that the quantity that has been recovered was much less than all that Netaji carried with him. In view of the discrepancies in statements relating to the conclusion of the valuables from Taihoku Airport, their subsequent custody and handing over to Netaji's associates, the Committee expressed the opinion that "it was far from clear as to what was collected from Taihoku Airport, whether and when the container was changed, whether there was any subtraction and who took delivery of it in Tokyo and when." The Committee suggested that in case a separate inquiry into this was considered necessary, such an inquiry would have to cover not only the treasure carried by Netaji on his last journey but also examination of the entire assets and liabilities, in cash and kind, of the Provisional Government of Azad Hind. The Committee was however was not sure whether such an inquiry would serve any purpose after the lapse of time especially since whatever records there might have been, had been destroyed.

11. The one-man Inquiry Commission headed by Justice Khosla in Report dated 30th June 1974 did not go into any detail on the subject of the treasure. The Commission had not specifically enquired into this matter. The Commission has noted a suggestion made to it that part of the treasure had been misappropriated by Shri Ram Murthy and his brother Shri J. Murthy. But the Commission could not find any satisfactory proof of such misappropriation and felt that "no useful purpose could be served by pursuing a quest which was not likely to yield anything definite or worthwhile".

12. In October 1952, our Ambassador in Tokyo was asked whether the treasure could now be brought over to India as our Peace Treaty with Japan had come into force. The Mission proposed on 27th October 1952 that the valuables be sent with Shri Damle, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, who was on a visit to Tokyo at that time and was returning to India on 7th November. The Mission felt that it was not necessary to refer the matter to the Japanese Government who had evinced no interest in the matter. Due to delay in the flight Shri Damle reached Delhi on the 10th evening by PANAM flight No.3. At the request of the Ministry of External Affairs, instructions were issued to the Customs to release the attache cases containing the valuables without customs examination under the 'note and pass' procedure on the understanding that the articles would be assessed later and customs duty paid by the Ministry of External Affairs. An import permit from the Reserve Bank of India was also not insisted upon.

13. According to the records, Shri Damle on arrival delivered the valuables to Shri H. Dayal, then Joint Secretary (Administration) in the Ministry of External Affairs. The suit-cases was kept in his cabinet. Thereafter, on an unspecified date, the valuables were checked and weighed. The results of the weighing are in the table given earlier (It is to be noted that neither the earlier list sent by our Mission in Tokyo indicating the weights as found at the time of taking over of the valuables from Shri J. Murthy nor the list as prepared in the

Ministry after arrival of the items here are signed and authenticated). The valuables were considered to be worth about Rs.90,000 at that time; this is presumably based on a message from the Mission in Tokyo before despatch of the goods that they might be insured for Rs.90,000. Prime Minister inspected the articles on 9.1.1953. He minuted as follows:-

"I saw this treasure. It made a poor show. Apart from some gold pieces, it consisted of charred remains ~~xxx~~ cheap jewellery chiefly some silver and gold articles, all broken up. I think ^{that} this should be kept as it is. Apart from everything else, it is some evidence of the aircraft accident and subsequent fire".

14. The question of exempting the valuables from Customs duty was taken up with the Ministry of Finance. It was suggested to the Ministry of External Affairs that in case these were considered as articles of historical value which would be kept in a public place, exemption could be given. This was confirmed by the Ministry and exemption from customs duty was accorded.

15. As regards the custody of the box containing valuables, this was taken over by Shri Devi Dyal, Deputy Secretary (Administration) from the Joint Secretary (Administration) on 26th September 1953 and deposited in the Treasurer's safe. On 5th October 1953, the box was double sealed with an NGO seal and a PM's Secretariat seal in presence of Deputy Secretary (Administration). It ^{is} seen from a subsequent note that the box containing the valuables had been put inside a sealed ~~box~~ ^{bag} and deposited in the cash chest of the Ministry.

16. The Ministry of External Affairs was in touch with the PM's Secretariat in regard to the eventual disposal of these valuables. On 12.11.1953 the Prime Minister suggested that the Ministry of Education take charge of the treasure after inspection. Following this, Shri Humayun Kabir of the Ministry of Education, Shri J.K. Roy, Superintendent: Central Asian Antiquities Museum (National Museum) and

^{some}
of rather

Joint Secretary (Administration), Ministry of External Affairs, inspected the treasure on 27.11.1953. Thereafter Shri Kabir recorded a note to the effect that the items were not suitable for exhibition and therefore these could best be handed over to the family of Netaji Bose, if necessary, after a brief exhibition in Delhi. The then Minister of Education, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad suggested that these items be handed over to Netaji's family. However, Prime Minister in a minute recorded on 2.12.1953 stated that the articles could not be sent to the Netaji's family as the family had shown no interest in them and were not prepared to admit that Netaji had died in that accident. P.M. stated that while there was no question of holding an exhibition of these articles, since they were of historical value, they should be kept carefully. Following these instructions, the Ministry of Education decided that the treasure, locked in a box and sealed, would be deposited in the National Museum. This was done on 30th December 1953. In a note recorded on the taking over, 1/ has been signed by Shri J.K. Roy, which Superintendent, National Museum, Shri A.C. Banerji of the National Museum and Shri Devi Dyal, Deputy Secretary (Administration), Ministry of External Affairs, it is stated that the box containing the treasure as per list on the file was opened, contents checked and thereafter re-locked and re-sealed with the NGO seal of the Ministry of External Affairs and handed over along with the key to Shri Roy. Shri Roy has recorded on 2.1.1954 that the treasure has been safely deposited in the National Museum.

17. As regards the sum of Yen 20,000 which had been handed over to the Embassy of India, Tokyo, by Shri Ram Murthy, this amount was taken into Government account for purposes of transfer to India. This amount, equivalent to Rs.265 and annas 10, remained in the Ministry of External Affairs pending a decision on its disposal. On 2.12.1954, Prime Minister's Secretariat instructed that this amount be handed over to the INA Relief Fund of the AICC. This was accordingly done on 16.12.1954 against a receipt issued by the AICC.

The papers relating to the INA Treasure had been made available to the Netaji Inquiry Committee in 1956. The Report of the Committee indicates that the Committee inspected the valuables at the National Museum twice, on the second occasion along with Kundan Singh, ^{Netaji's} personal valet, who identified a number of articles as belonging to Netaji. It would appear after the inspection, the box was re-sealed with the NGO seal of the Ministry of External Affairs.

18. The box was opened again on 9.10.1978 on Prime Minister's instructions. Additional Secretary, Department of Culture, Director: National Museum, Director-General: Archaeological Survey of India, were present at the opening; representatives of the Ministry of External Affairs were also present though not at the initial opening of the box. Detailed information on the results of the examination of the articles would be available with the Department of Culture and Prime Minister's Office. However, the weights of different packages, as now ascertained by Museum officials, ^{have been} ~~are~~ given in the table ^{on page 6.} earlier. This information was provided by Prime Minister's Office.

Netaji's treasure box opened and resealed

NEW DELHI, Nov 22 (UNI).

The "treasure box" of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, opened recently, contained rings, chains, wrist watches, pendants, bangles, fragments of stones, shirt buttons and other miscellaneous items, the Prime Minister, Mr. Morarji Desai told the Lok Sabha today.

The net weight of the articles, excluding the weight of wrappers, was found to be 13491.25 grammes. The box, lying with the National Museum since 1952, was opened on October 9 this year under instructions of the Prime Minister, to verify the observations made in Mr. Shah Nawaz Khan's report about its contents. Almost all the articles in the box were damaged and charred.

The box containing the treasure that was salvaged from the aircraft in which Netaji was reported to have met his death was brought to Delhi from Tokyo by an Indian official under instructions from the then Prime Minister in November 1952. It was handed over to the Prime Minister immediately and was retained by the External Affairs Ministry temporarily. It was entrusted to the National Museum on December 31, 1953.

Asked by H. V. Kamath and Mr. Surendra Bikram whether the box and its contents could be inspected by MPs, Mr. Desai said the box had been resealed and was not available for inspection.

Atomic Power: Another atomic power station is likely to be set up in the country, Mr. Desai told Mr. K. Ramachandran.

The Atomic Energy Commission is expected to examine the proposal in the near future.

Enriched uranium: The Government has sought from the United States supply of 19.6 tonnes of enriched uranium in addition to the earlier request for 16.8 tonnes, the Prime Minister told the House.

Both the applications are under consideration of the US authorities. India has so far obtained 217 tonnes of enriched uranium containing approximately 5,050 kg of uranium-235. Further supplies

would be necessary to cover plan requirements.

He replied in the negative to a question of Mr. R. V. Swaminathan whether the Soviet Union had recently communicated its willingness to supply uranium for Tarapur plant.

Draft plan: Draft plan proposals for the period 1978-83 have been received so far only from Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Punjab, Sikkim and Karnataka.

Some States have indicated that work on plan-preparation has been delayed by their pre-occupation with floods and their aftermath. Mr. Desai told the Lok Sabha in a written answer.

All-India services: The Centre is not in favour of the West Bengal Government's suggestion for abolition of all-India services. At the same time, there was no move to introduce any new all-India services, the Minister of State for Home, Mr. S. D. Patil, gave this written answer to a question by Mr. E. Faleiro in the Lok Sabha.

Official Secrets Act: Mr. Patil told Mrs. Parvati Krishnan in the House that a non-commissioned officer of IAF had been arrested under the Official Secrets Act and the case was under investigation. He declined to give details in public interest.

The Government is currently reviewing the Official Secrets Act of 1923, the Minister of State for Home, Mr. D. L. Mandal, told Mr. R. S. Hazari.

Shah Commission: The Government has spent Rs 68.84 lakhs on the Shah Commission up to October 30 this year, Mr. Mandal said.

Preventive detention: Mr. Mandal also told Mr. A. Faleiro and others in the House that the Centre is not contemplating enacting any legislation to provide for preventive detention or more effectively handling of the law and order situation in the country.

Answering another question, he said State Governments were competent to deal with public order, police and preventive detention. Preventive detention came in the State List and they could frame laws on the subject.

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Dy. No. 1377 JS (D-1) 17.8

Date 23/11

Spaleman

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23/11/78

NETAJI'S BOX OPENED

The box said to contain the treasure that was salvaged from the aircraft in which Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was reported to have met his death was opened in the presence of officers on October 9 under the instructions of the Prime Minister, the Lok Sabha was told on Wednesday, reports PTI

Mr Morarji Desai, in a written answer to Mr H. V. Kamath, said that the box was opened to verify the observations made in a chapter of Mr Shah Nawaz Khan's report about the contents of the box.

The box has been in the custody of the National Museum for the past 25 years.

The Prime Minister said the box had been brought to Delhi from Tokyo by an official of the Government of India under instructions from the then Prime Minister in November, 1952. It was handed over to him immediately on arrival and was retained by the Ministry of External Affairs temporarily.

The box placed in a diplomatic bag sealed by the Ministry of External Affairs, was entrusted on December 30, 1953, to the National Museum, New Delhi, for safe custody and has remained with the museum since then.

Giving a description of the opening of the box last month and the inventory of its contents, the Prime Minister said: "The seal of the cloth bag containing the box was opened and the bag seen to contain a steel suitcase. The suitcase was opened with the key tied to the seal of the diplomatic bag."

"The box was found to contain 17 packages, the contents of which were medals, rings, chains, wrist watches, ear rings, pendants, ear studs, brooches, bangles, fragments of stones, shirt buttons, signet rings, nose-ring stones, iron nail and other miscellaneous items, almost all of which are in damaged and charred condition. The net weight of the articles, excluding weight of wrappers, was found to be 13,491.25 grammes. An inventory has been prepared."

The Prime Minister added that the contents of the box were placed in the suitcase and bag and sealed again with the seal of the National Museum where it was kept.

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SECRET/MOST IMMEDIATE
PARLIAMENT QUESTION
D.O.No. 21/52/78-T

S. BANDYOPADHYAY
DEPUTY SECRETARY

D. 12400-NAO/18
2411

NEW DELHI-110001,

November 21, 1978

Dear Shri Sreeraman,

Kindly refer to Rajya Sabha Starred Question Dy. No. 402 on the subject of INA Treasure which the Ministry of External Affairs is said to have transferred to the P.M.'s Office.

2. The Ministry of External Affairs had requested us to check up whether the subject of INA Treasure was at any stage brought to the notice of the Khosla Commission in view of part (g) of the Question. A perusal of the records in this Ministry shows that whatever documents were required by the Commission were furnished by the Ministries concerned either directly or through this Ministry and the papers had, after the winding up of the Commission, been returned to the respective Ministries direct. It is not, therefore, possible to indicate how much of the records pertaining to INA Treasures were made available to the Commission. It is however observed that the Ministry of External Affairs's file No. 25/4/NGO-51 on the subject was specifically asked for by the Commission in March, 71. Whether it was actually furnished to the Commission or not may have to be checked up with reference to the correspondence in the Ministry of External Affairs's file No. C/551/8/70-JP and C/551/4/72-JP. Similarly file No. 23(11)/56-57-PM on the subject of "INA Treasure" had been furnished by the P.M. Sectt. to the Commission. It was returned by the Commission and acknowledged in your D.O.No. 2/64/74-PM dated 27.7.74.

3. In view of the above and since a mention has been made to the subject in para 8.51 of its Report by the Commission it appears that the records pertaining to the INA Treasure were made available to the Commission.

4. A copy of the final answer that may be given to the House may kindly be furnished to us also for our record.

Yours sincerely,

sd/-

(S. Bandyopadhyay)

Shri N.S. Sreeraman,
P.S. to P.M.,
P.M.'s Office,
New Delhi.

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No. 21/52/78-T

New Delhi-110001, the 21st Nov., 1978

✓ Copy for information to Shri K.P. Balakrishnan,
Director (Estt.), Ministry of External Affairs with reference
to his D.O. No. 25/4/NGO-Vol.III dated 18.11.78 and U.O.
No. 25/4/NGO/Vol.III dated 20.11.78.

Deu (Estt.) Kanun

S. Bandyopadhyay
21/11/78

(S. Bandyopadhyay)
Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of India

K.P. Balakrishnan
Director (Establishment)

(57)

No.25/4/NGO/Vol.III

21st November 1978

Subject: Advance Notice for Rajya Sabha Starred
Question D.No.402 regarding Netaji and
INA Treasure

-:oOo:-

Dear Shri Sreeraman,

...

As desired by you, I am enclosing a note giving further information relating to the handing over of the "Treasure" to our Mission in Tokyo, its despatch to Delhi, safe custody in the Ministry of External Affairs and handing over to the National Museum. The information is based on our files on the subject.

Yours sincerely,

(K.P. Balakrishnan)

Shri N.S. Sreeraman,
Private Secretary to the
Prime Minister,
P.M.'s Office,
NEW DELHI.

Enc: As above

~~SECRET~~ 56

Ministry of External Affairs

...

Shri S.A. Ayer, Director of Publicity, Government of Bombay, visited Japan in May 1951 and met Shri K.K. Chettur, Head of the Indian Liaison Mission, Tokyo. Shri Ayer was staying with Shri Ramamurti. Both of them were connected with Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. Shri Ayer proposed that the gold and jewellery which had been collected from the plane in which Netaji met his death should be sent to the Government of India for disposal. On Prime Minister's instructions, Shri Chettur was asked in September 1951 to take possession of the gold and jewellery which was in Shri Ramamurti's possession and keep it in the Mission until further instructions. Accordingly, the articles were taken possession of on 24th September 1951; the receipt was signed by Shri V.C. Trivedi, the then First Secretary of the Mission. Before taking over, the valuables were weighed and a list of contents prepared. A copy of the list is enclosed.

...

2. In October 1952 it was enquired of our Ambassador whether the above articles could be brought over to India; since our Treaty of Peace with Japan had come into force, this should be comparatively /a easy matter. Mission proposed to send these with Shri Damle, Joint Secretary, Agriculture Ministry who was returning to India on 7.11.52. As his flight was delayed, Shri Damle reached Delhi only on the night of 11.11.52, by a PAN AM Airways flight. The box containing the valuables was taken over for safe custody by the then Joint Secretary (Administration) in the Ministry of External Affairs Shri Harishwar Dayal on 12.11.1952. A note on file indicates that the box "has been sealed and kept in double locked safe of the Treasurer of the Ministry of External Affairs".

3. In a minute recorded on 2.12.53, the Prime Minister instructed that the valuables should be kept carefully and that "all relics of Shri Subhas Chandra Bose should be carefully preserved in proper cases". The Ministry of Education then proposed on 7.12.1953 that the "treasure", locked in a box and sealed, should be deposited in the National Museum. On 30.12.53, the box containing the "treasure" as per list on the file was opened and the contents checked and thereafter re-locked and re-sealed with the N.G.O. seal of the Ministry of External Affairs, and handed over along with the key to Mr. J.K. Roy, Superintendent, National Museum, in the presence of Mr. A.C. Banerji of the National Museum. This note has been signed by Shri Devi Diyal, then Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, as well as by Shri J.K. Roy and Shri A.C. Banerji. The sum of Y.20,000/- (Rupees 265-10) was handed over to the

All India Congress Committee, New Delhi, on 16.12.1954
vide their receipt No.901, for transfer to I.N.A.
Relief Fund.

211
(54)

LIST OF ITEMS TAKEN FROM MR. RAM MURTY BY THE EMBASSY OF
INDIA, TOKYO ON 24.9.1951 AND HANDED OVER TO THE
NATIONAL MUSEUM, NEW DELHI on 30.12.1953
--:oOo:--

BUNDL E I

Package 1

Charred rings and pendants 400 grams

Package 2

Charred and broken bangles, pins, buckles etc. 2 kgs. 560 grams

Package 3

Charred and broken bangles, pendants, snuff box
medals, coins and rings 325 grams

Package 4

Charred necklace pieces, medals and rings 325 grams

Package 5

Charred ear-rings, nose-rings, mostly with stones 700 grams

Package 6

Charred and broken bangles and anklets 1 kg. 700 grams

Package 7

Charred and broken rings, noserings and pendants 825 grams

Package 8

Charred rings and nose-rings 425 grams

Package 9

Charred necklace, bangles, broaches & nose rings 320 grams

Package 10

Charred ear-rings with stones and rings 425 grams

Package 11

Charred rings 105 grams

Package 12

Charred rings and chain 200 grams

Package 13

Charred rings and buttons 50 grams

Package 14

Charred ear pendants 50 grams
8,410

BUNDLE II

Charred gold mixed with molten metal, iron etc. 3.500

BUNDLE III

Metal, mostly base and dust 1.600

AYER'S LOT

(1) 9 pieces of gold : 300 grams

53

K.P. Balakrishnan
Director (Establishment)

No.25/4/NGO/Vol.III

21st November 1978

Subject: Advance Notice for Rajya Sabha Starred
Question D.No.402 regarding Netaji and
INA Treasure

-:oOo:-

Dear Shri Sreeraman,

...

As desired by you, I am enclosing a note giving further information relating to the handing over of the "Treasure" to our Mission in Tokyo, its despatch to Delhi, safe custody in the Ministry of External Affairs and handing over to the National Museum. The information is based on our files on the subject.

Yours sincerely,

(K.P. Balakrishnan)

Shri N.S. Sreeraman,
Private Secretary to the
Prime Minister,
P.M.'s Office,
NEW DELHI.

Enc: As above

Ministry of External Affairs

...

Shri S.A. Ayer, Director of Publicity, Government of Bombay, visited Japan in May 1951 and met Shri K.K. Chettur, Head of the Indian Liaison Mission, Tokyo. Shri Ayer was staying with Shri Ramamurti. Both of them were connected with Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. Shri Ayer proposed that the gold and jewellery which had been collected from the plane in which Netaji met his death should be sent to the Government of India for disposal. On Prime Minister's instructions, Shri Chettur was asked in September 1951 to take possession of the gold and jewellery which was in Shri Ramamurti's possession and keep it in the Mission until further instructions. Accordingly, the articles were taken possession of on 24th September 1951; the receipt was signed by Shri V.C. Trivedi, the then First Secretary of the Mission. Before taking over, the valuables were weighed and a list of contents prepared. A copy of the list is enclosed.

...

2. In October 1952 it was enquired of our Ambassador whether the above articles could be brought over to India; since our Treaty of Peace with Japan had come into force, this should be comparatively a easy matter. Mission proposed to send these with Shri Damle, Joint Secretary, Agriculture Ministry who was returning to India on 7.11.52. As his flight was delayed, Shri Damle reached Delhi only on the night of 11.11.52, by a PAN AM Airways flight. The box containing the valuables was taken over for safe custody by the then Joint Secretary (Administration) in the Ministry of External Affairs Shri Harishwar Dayal on 12.11.1952. A note on file indicates that the box "has been sealed and kept in double locked safe of the Treasurer of the Ministry of External Affairs".

3. In a minute recorded on 2.12.53, the Prime Minister instructed that the valuables should be kept carefully and that "all relics of Shri Subhas Chandra Bose should be carefully preserved in proper cases". The Ministry of Education then proposed on 7.12.1953 that the "treasure", locked in a box and sealed, should be deposited in the National Museum. On 30.12.53, the box containing the "treasure" as per list on the file was opened and the contents checked and thereafter re-locked and re-sealed with the N.G.O. seal of the Ministry of External Affairs, and handed over along with the key to Mr. J.K. Roy, Superintendent, National Museum, in the presence of Mr. A.C. Banerji of the National Museum. This note has been signed by Shri Devi Diyal, then Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, as well as by Shri J.K. Roy and Shri A.C. Banerji. The sum of Y.20,000/- (Rupees 265-10) was handed over to the

(51)

All India Congress Committee, New Delhi, on 16.12.1954
vide their receipt No.901, for transfer to I.N.A.
Relief Fund.

LIST OF ITEMS TAKEN FROM MR. RAM MURTY BY THE EMBASSY OF
INDIA, TOKYO ON 24.9.1951 AND HANDED OVER TO THE
NATIONAL MUSEUM, NEW DELHI on 30.12.1953
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Charred and broken bangles and anklets 1 kg. 700 grams

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Charred and broken rings, noserings and pendants 825 grams

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Charred rings and nose-rings 425 grams

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Charred necklace, bangles, broaches & nose rings 320 grams

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Charred ear-rings with stones and rings 425 grams

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Charred rings 105 grams

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Charred rings and buttons 50 grams

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Charred ear pendants 50 grams

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BUNDLE II

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BUNDLE III

Metal, mostly base and dust 1.600

AYER'S LOT

(1) 9 pieces of gold : 300 grams

(49)

~~SECRET~~
MOST IMMEDIATE
PARLIAMENT QUESTION

Ministry of External Affairs

...

Subject: Advance Notice for Rajya Sabha Starred Question D.No.402 regarding Netaji and INA Treasure

...

Reference is invited to Prime Minister's Office U.O. Note No.PMS-26099 dated 18.11.78 on the above subject.

2. Information relevant to part (c) to (g) of the question is contained in the enclosed note.

3. As regards part (g) of the question, it may be mentioned that this Ministry has no information on whether the subject of INA Treasure was placed before the Khosla Commission. The Ministry of Home Affairs, who have the relevant records, have been requested to send material on this aspect directly to the Prime Minister's Office.

(K.P. Balakrishnan)
Director (Establishment)
20.11.1978
Tel.No.37 13 56

Prime Minister's Office (Shri N.S. Sreeraman, Private Secretary to the Prime Minister)

Min. of External Affairs U.O. No.25/4/NGO/Vol.III dated 20.11.1978

Copy, without enclosure, to the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri S. Bandyopadhyay, Deputy Secretary IS) New Delhi.

OB 7c
(K.P. Balakrishnan)
Director (Establishment)
20.11.1978

Isent
20/11/78

SA VC

(48)

MOST IMMEDIATE
PARLIAMENT QUESTION

SECRET

Ministry of External Affairs

...

Subject: Rajya Sabha Starred Question D.No.402
regarding INA Treasure
-:oOo:-

In 1951, the Head of the Indian Liaison Mission in Tokyo was contacted by some Indians who were associated with Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. They informed him that they were in possession of some gold and jewellery which, they stated, had been collected from the plane which crashed with Netaji. The Head of the Indian Liaison Mission was also informed that in addition to the gold and jewellery, they were also in possession of Yen 20,000 (then equivalent to Rs.265 and annas 10 only).

On instructions from the then Prime Minister, the Head of the Indian Liaison Mission in Tokyo kept this gold, jewellery and cash in our Mission until further instructions.

After the signing of the Peace Treaty with Japan, these articles were sent in one box to Delhi in November 1952, through an official of the Government of India. They were delivered to the Ministry of External Affairs, who retained them temporarily. On December 30, 1953, the gold and jewellery were handed over to the National Museum for safe custody. The cash amounting to Rs.265 and annas 10 was, with approval of the then Prime Minister, transferred to INA Relief Fund on December 16, 1954.

The box containing the gold and jewellery was handed over to the National Museum and has remained in the safe custody of the Museum since 1953.

The above information was made available to the Netaji Inquiry Committee headed by Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, M.P. in 1956. The Committee inspected the box containing the gold and jewellery in the National Museum. A detailed report on the INA Treasure, including inspection of the box is contained in Chapter VI of the Netaji Inquiry Committee Report in 1956.

(47)

~~MOST IMMEDIATE~~
~~PARLIAMENT QUESTION~~

~~SECRET~~

Ministry of External Affairs

...

Subject: Rajya Sabha Starred Question D.No.402
regarding INA Treasure
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46

MOST IMMEDIATE
PARLIAMENT QUESTION

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

Subject:- Advance Notice for Rajya Sabha Starred
Question D.No.402 regarding Netaji and
INA Treasure

CH 118

addressed to this
Office and copy
endorsed to
R.S. Sectt.

Reference is invited to Ministry of External
Affairs u.o. No.25/4/NGO/Vol.III dated 17.11.78 on
the above subject.

This Office accepts the transfer of the
Question. It may be put down for answer by Prime Minister
on a day allotted to him.

Sd/-
(N.S. Sreeraman)
Private Secretary to
the Prime Minister.

Rajya Sabha Sectt. (Shri B.R. Goel, Sr. Legislative
Committee Officer)

Prime Minister's Office u.o. No. Pms-26088
dated 18-11-78

Copy to: (1) M.E.A. (Sh. K.P. Balakrishnan
Director, Establishment. *It is requested to*
pm's Office
(11) Parliament Section, with a
copy of the Question.

that a detailed
information to answer
the various parts of the Question
and possible supplementaries
may kindly be made available
to this office urgently.

Sd/-
(N.S. Sreeraman)
Private Secretary to
the Prime Minister.

4475-ADW(EXT) 118

45

9A

No. 25/4/NGO-Vol.III.

18th November, 1978.

Dear Shri Bandyopadhyay,

Kindly refer to Ministry of Home Affairs U.O. dated 9th November, 1978, regarding Rajya Sabha Starred Question D.No.402 on the subject of I.N.A. Treasure.

2. We had furnished information on the above subject to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat. Since then, however, we have requested the Prime Minister's office to take over the question, in view of the fact that the P.M.'s office is handling a similar question for reply in the Lok Sabha. At the same time we are collecting material necessary for giving a reply to the question.

3. You will recall that part (g) of the question read as follows:

"whether the matter was placed before the Netaji Enquiry Committee in 1956 and before the subsequent One-man Commission under the Chairmanship of G.D. Khosla; and if not what are the reasons therefor."

4. On going through our records relating to the I.N.A. Treasure, I find that there is reference to the files being shown to Shri Shah Nawaz Khan who headed the Enquiry Committee in 1956. But there is no such reference as far as the Khosla Commission is concerned. Since presumably the Ministry of Home Affairs would have papers relating to the appointment, terms of reference and activities of the Khosla Commission, I shall be grateful if you will urgently check these records to ascertain if the subject of INA Treasure was at any stage brought to the notice of the Khosla Commission.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(K.P. Balakrishnan)

Shri S. Bandyopadhyay,
Deputy Secretary (IS),
Ministry of Home Affairs,
New Delhi.

Shri S.
18/11/78

44

~~SECRET~~

MOST IMMEDIATE
PARLIAMENT QUESTION

Ministry of External Affairs

...

Subject: Advance Notice for Rajya Sabha Starred
Question D.No.402 regarding Netaji and
INA Treasure

...

...

A copy of the question referred to above
is enclosed.

2. It will be noted that the main part of
the question deals with the report relating to
the opening of the Netaji Treasure, which has not
been handled by this Ministry and on which
information is available with the Prime Minister's
Office. The Prime Minister's Office is replying
to another question on similar lines in the
Lok Sabha (Starred Question No.60 for 22.11.1978).
It is therefore requested that the Prime Minister's
Office may kindly agree to accept the transfer of
this question to them.

B

Je

(K.P. Balakrishnan)
Director (Establishment)
18.11.78
Tel.No. 37 13 56

Prime Minister's Office (Shri N.S. Sreeraman,
P.S. to the P.M.)

Min. of External Affairs U.O. No.25/4/NGO/Vol.III
dated 17.11.1978

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action
to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat (Shri B.R. Goel,
Sr. Legislative Committee Officer)

QUESTION FOR THE RAJYA SABHA - ADVANCE NOTICE

Starred D.No.402

Ministry to which the day has been allotted: External Affairs

The question will, if admitted, be put down for the sitting on the 24.11.78 (provisionally admitted)

NETAJI and I.N.A. Treasure

* SHRI AMAR PROSAD CHAKRABORTY:

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the New item which appeared in the 'Amrit Bazar Patrika' of 25th October, 1978 regarding Netaji and I.N.A. treasure;
- (b) if so, what are the details thereof?
- (c) whether it is a fact that there were four suitcases with I.N.A. treasures;
- (d) if so, who had brought the treasures and from whom and in how many boxes;
- (e) whether any such box or suitcase is missing;
- (f) what is the name of the person or authority under whose custody these boxes remained for such a long time; and
- (g) whether the matter was placed before the Netaji Enquiry Committee in 1956 and before the subsequent One-man Commission under the Chairmanship of G.D. Khosla; and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

...

COPY

(42)

1310-JSADI/78

18/11

राज्य सभा के लिए प्रश्न-अग्रिम सूचना
QUESTION FOR THE RAJYA SABHA—ADVANCE NOTICE

AS(AD)/DS(FSO)

Provisional Admitted

तारंकित/अतारंकित डा० सं०/Starred/Unstarred D. No. 402

मंत्रालय जिसके लिए दिन नियत किया गया है/Ministry to which the day has been allotted.

विदेश मंत्रालय/External Affairs

प्रश्न स्वीकृत होने पर सदन में उत्तर दिए जाने की तारीख

The question will, if admitted, be put down for the sitting on the

24.11.78

Reply was
approved by AS

Netaji and I.N.A. treasure

* SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY:

Will the Minister of External Affairs
be pleased to state:

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.....

4523/AS(A)/70

(41)

राज्य सभा के लिए प्रश्न--अग्रिम सूचना
QUESTION FOR THE RAJYA SABHA—ADVANCE NOTICE
AS(AD)/DS(FSO)

Provisional Admitted

तारांकित/अतारांकित डा० सं०/Starred/~~Unstarred~~ D. No. 402

मंत्रालय जिसके लिए दिन नियत किया गया है/Ministry to which the day has been allotted.

विदेश मंत्रालय/External Affairs

प्रश्न स्वीकृत होने पर सदन में उत्तर दिए जाने की तारीख

The question will, if admitted, be put down for the sitting on the 24.11.78

AS(A)-on Table

So (N.G.)
18/11/78

Netaji and I.N.A. treasure

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- (g) whether the matter was placed before the Netaji Enquiry Committee in 1956 and before the subsequent One-man Commission under the Chairmanship of G.D. Khosla; and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

40

~~SECRET~~

MOST IMMEDIATE
PARLIAMENT QUESTION

Ministry of External Affairs

...

Subject: Starred Question No.60 for 22-11-78
regarding Treasure Box belonging to
Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose
-:oOo:-

S.N. 14

Reference is invited to the Prime Minister's
Office U.O. Note No.2/(64)/78-PM dated 17.11.78
on the above subject.

...

2. A note giving information relevant to
part (a), (b) and (c) of the question is enclosed.
It may be noted that this is based on information
already supplied to the Lok Sabha Secretariat
on 30th March 1978 in answer to Unstarred
Question No.4957.

9

(K.P. Balakrishnan)
Director (Establishment)
17.11.78
Telephone No.37 13 56

P.M.'s Office (Shri N.S. Sreeraman, PS to the P.M.)
Min. of Ext. Affairs U.O.No.25/4/NGO/Vol.III dt. 17.11.78

Enclosure to MEA U.O. Note No. 25/4/NGO/Vol.III dt. 17.11.78

INA TREASURE

In 1951, the Head of the Indian Liaison Mission in Tokyo was contacted by some Indians who were associated with Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. They informed him that they were in possession of some gold and jewellery which, they stated, had been collected from the plane which crashed with Netaji. The Head of the Indian Liaison Mission was also informed that in addition to the gold and jewellery, they were also in possession of Yen 20,000 (then equivalent to Rs.265 and annas 10 only).

On instructions from the then Prime Minister, the Head of the Indian Liaison Mission in Tokyo kept this gold, jewellery and cash in our Mission until further instructions.

After the signing of the Peace Treaty with Japan, these articles were sent to Delhi in November 1952 through an official of the Government of India. They were delivered to the Ministry of External Affairs, who retained them temporarily. On December 30, 1953 the gold and jewellery were handed over to the National Museum for safe custody. The cash amounting to Rs.265 and annas 10 was, with approval of the then Prime Minister, transferred to the INA Relief Fund on December 16, 1954.

...

Enclosure to MEA U.O. Note No. 25/4/NGO/Vol. III dt. 17.11.78

INA TREASURE

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(36)

Most Immediate
Parliament Question
By Special Messenger

prime Minister's Office

Subject: Starred Question No.60 for 22-11-78 regarding
Treasure Box belonging to Netaji Subhas Chandra
Bose.

-0-0-0-0-

A copy of the Question noted above is enclosed.

The department of culture have furnished to us facts
relating to parts (c) to (m) of the Question. We shall be
grateful if the Ministry of External Affairs could let us
have the background information relating to parts (a) & (b)
of the Question and any other material relevant to answer
possible supplementaries, by 18th November 1978.

N. S. Sreeraman
(N.S.Sreeraman)
private Secretary
to the prime Minister

Ministry of External Affairs (Shri N. Dayal, Dir (Coord))
P.M's Office u.o. No.2/(64)/78-PM dated 17-11-1978

2473-Di8(Coord)/78
17/11
For you. we spoke
Narendralal
17/11
Dr (AS)-II

Dr (AS) may see
pl. a reply. 17/11

Dr (AS) 17/11
has seen
17/11

TREASURE BOX BELONGING TO NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE

*60 Shri HARI VISHNU KAMATH:
SHRI SURENDRA BIKRAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a treasure box belonging to the president of Arzee Hukumat-e-Azad Hind, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, was brought to India some years ago;
- (b) if so, when exactly, by whom and in what circumstances.
- (c) where and to whose custody it had been kept since;
- (d) whether it was opened recently;
- (e) if so, when exactly, by whom under whose orders;
- (f) the reasons for opening the box;
- (g) the names of persons who were present when the box was opened.
- (h) the description of the box, and of the method or techniques by which it was opened;
- (i) the detailed inventory of the contents of the box;
- (j) whether the box is lying open with the contents taken out or whether the contents have been replaced and the box re-closed;
- (k) where the box is now kept;
- (l) whether the box and its contents are ~~was~~ available for observation and inspection by Members of parliament; and
- (m) if not, the reasons therefor?

(34)

D. 12138-N 60/78
12/11

MOST IMMEDIATE

RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION

NO. Dy. 15/26-CAI (C)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE

New Delhi, November 16, 1978

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Rajya Sabha Starred Question
No. D. No.402 regarding INA Treasure

S.N. 10

On put up
in file
B
16/11

MP

The undersigned is directed to refer to the Ministry of External Affairs U.O. Note No. 1422-Dir (Estt)/78 dated 10-11-1978, on the above-mentioned subject and to state that as the Education Ministry was not concerned with the subject of INA, the relevant facts were supplied to the Prime Minister's Office with a request to send a reply direct to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat. It is understood that the Prime Minister's Office had decided to give a reply direct to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat. Ministry of External Affairs are, therefore, requested to contact the Prime Minister's Office for further information on the Question.

J.M. Gugnani
(J.M. Gugnani)

Assistant Educational Adviser
Tele.No.388121

To

The Ministry of External Affairs
(Shri K.P. Balakrishnan-Director (Establishment))
New Delhi.

14

save.

Dy. No. 1461
Dated 17/11/78

33

MOST IMMEDIATE
PARLIAMENT QUESTION

SECRET

Ministry of External Affairs

...

Subject: Rajya Sabha Starred Question D.No. 402
regarding INA Treasure.

...

Reference is invited to Rajya Sabha Secretariat Office Memorandum No. RS.C./SQD/402/Q.I dated 6.11.1978, addressed to the Ministry of Home Affairs, copy of which has been sent to the Ministry of External Affairs by that Ministry vide their U.O. No.21/52/78-T dated the 9th November, 1978.

2. Factual information relating to part (c) to (g) of the question is given below:-

In 1951, the Head of the Indian Liaison Mission in Tokyo was contacted by some Indians who were associated with Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. They informed him that they were in possession of some gold and jewellery which, they stated, had been collected from the plane which crashed with Netaji. The Head of the Indian Liaison Mission was also informed that in addition to the gold and jewellery, they were also in possession of Yen 20,000 (then equivalent to Rs. 265 and annas 10 only).

On instructions from the then Prime Minister, the Head of the Indian Liaison Mission in Tokyo kept this gold, jewellery and cash in our Mission until further instructions.

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32
~~SECRET~~

The box containing the gold and jewellery handed over to the National Museum has remained in the safe custody of the Museum since 1953.

Our records indicate that the files on the subject had been sent by Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, M.P. Chairman of the Netaji Enquiry Committee in 1956.

3. As regards part (a) of the question, it may be mentioned that Government have seen the report entitled "Netaji's Treasure-box opened" published in the "Amrita Bazar Patrika", Calcutta dated 25th October, 1978.

4. As regards part (b) of the question, since this matter has been handled by the Ministry of Education & S.W./ Department of Culture, they have been requested to provide relevant information to this Ministry and directly to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat.

5. Replies to the queries in the Rajya Sabha Secretariat O.M. referred to above are given below seriatim:-

- i) No. However, a major part of the question was covered in Unstarred Question No.4957 answered in Lok Sabha.
- ii) No.
- iii) No.
- iv) No.
- v) No.
- vi) Yes.
- vii) No.

[Handwritten signature]

(P.P. D'Souza)
Joint Secretary to the Government of India
Telephone No.372954

Rajya Sabha Secretariat
(Shri B.R.Goel, Sr.Legislative Committee Officer)
MEA U.O. NO. 125/6/WC dated 10.11.1978

Copy Sent to MHA

13/11/78

Sh. Va.

9/2

Netaji's treasure box opened

From Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Oct. 24 : The treasure box which Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose had taken with him on his last flight to Tokyo has been opened. The box was opened in the National Museum some days ago at the instance of the Prime Minister, Mr. Morarji Desai. It had been lying in the vaults of the National Museum for the last 24 years.

It can now be reported that the black steel box, half-burnt in the air crash that is believed to have taken Netaji's life, contained diamonds and jewellery worth several lakhs of rupees. The jewellery and diamonds had been offered to Netaji by the Indian residents in

East Asia and South East Asia for conducting the war of independence.

Sources close to the Archeological Survey of India and National Museum today confirmed that the box was full of bangles, ear-rings, gold chains and diamonds. They were burnt in fire, but are still valuable.

Asked why the box was lying in the museum for the last 24 years, a senior Government officer, who did not want to be quoted and who was present at the time of the opening of the so called 'hidden treasure', said: "When the then Prime Minister, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, sent one box to the then officer-in-charge of the National Museum, Mr. J. K. Roy, it was marked 'secret'. Thereafter nobody touched it and recently when some allegations were made about Netaji's treasures, enquiries revealed that the box was with the National Museum. The Prime Minister then directed the Education Ministry's cultural department to open the box".

The officer also informed that the committee of scientific and chemical experts was now examining the contents of the box.

The officer was unaware about

the existence of two other boxes, as alleged in a section of the Press. He said the National Museum had only one box. The other two might have been with some other Ministry or department or there might not be any other box.

It may be recalled that none of the two commissions appointed to inquiry into the death of Netaji dwelt on the mystery of the three suitcases filled with jewellery and gold bars, as this was not specified in the terms of reference of neither the Khosla Commission nor the Shah Nawaz Commission.

Yet the Khosla Commission did throw some light on the subject. The report of the commission mentioned that the valuables were scattered on the airfield (Taihoku) when Bose's plane crashed.

"Some of the articles were damaged. Whatever valuables could be collected were gathered and placed

Continued on page 7, col. 8

Netaji

Continued from page 1, Col. 8

in a box which was sent to Tokyo along with the casket containing Bose's ashes. This box too was entrusted to Mr. Ramamurti (chairman of the Indian Independent League, Tokyo, and a close associate of Netaji) in 1945, who in 1959 handed it to the Indian ambassador in Tokyo. A suggestion was made by the counsel that part of this treasure had been misappropriated by Mr. Ramamurti and his brother M. Murti, but there is no satisfactory proof of this misappropriation."

The matter again came up in the Press when a Janata Party MP, Dr Subramaniam Swamy, alleged that Netaji's treasure had been handed over to Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru by an Indian ambassador and that Nehru had misappropriated it. Dr. Swamy had then refused to disclose the basis for his information. As one officer put it, "now Mr. Swamy must apologise for the false allegations he made against the late Prime Minister of India."

30

Ministry of External Affairs
External Publicity Division
(X.R. Section)

Dy. No. 5620/XR/78

Sent herewith is a Clipping from Anant Bazar Patrika dated 25/10/78
This is our record copy and may kindly be returned after
perusal.

N. G. O. Sec

A. K. Nag
(A.K. Nag) 2/11/78.
Publicity Officer(XR)

SECRET

293
Ministry of External Affairs

...

Subject: Rajya Sabha Starred Question No.D.No.402
regarding INA treasure.

-:000:-

...
The undersigned is directed to enclose a copy of Office Memorandum No.RS.C/SQD/402/Q.I. dated 6.11.1978 from the Rajya Sabha Secretariat, addressed to the Ministry of Home Affairs, which has been referred to this Ministry, on the above subject.

2. It will be noted that parts (a) and (b) of the question relate to matters on which the Ministry of Education/Department of Culture would be in a position to provide information. It will be appreciated if relevant information is provided to this Ministry and to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat directly before the 11th November 1978, along with their view in regard to the admissibility of the question.

Ve B. Lakshmi
(K.P. Balakrishna)
Director (Establishment)
10.11.78

* Separate
copies

* Department of Culture (Shri A.S. Gill, Addl. Secretary) and
Ministry of Education & S.W. (Shri P.V. Uma Shankar, Jt. Secy.)

Min. of External Affairs U.O. Note No.1423-Dir (Estt.)/78 dt.
10.11.78

C97 21-5
M 4A

Copy of Office Memorandum No.RS.C/SQB/402/Q.I dated 6.11.78
from the Rajya Sabha Secretariat, addressed to the Ministry
of Home Affairs

Subject: Starred Question D.No.402 regarding INA Treasure

...

The undersigned is directed to enclose a copy of the question given notice of by Shri Amar Prosad Chakrabarty, MP under rule 39 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha and to request that factual information with regard to the same may kindly be furnished to this Secretariat with particular reference to the following points:-

- i) whether the question or a part thereof is covered by the answer given to a previous question in the Rajya Sabha, if so, the number and date thereof;
- ii) whether the required information has previously been supplied to the Rajya Sabha in the form of a statement laid on the Table of the House or otherwise; if so, the particulars thereof;
- iii) whether the information asked for is contained in any easily accessible published documents; if so, the particulars thereof;
- iv) whether it asks for information on a matter which is not primarily the concern of the Government of India;
- v) whether it asks for information on a matter which is under adjudication by a court of law having jurisdictions in any part of India;
- vi) whether it seeks information about matters which are in their nature secret; and
- vii) whether the required information relates to a matter already under the consideration of a Parliamentary Committee; if so, the particulars thereof.

The information may kindly be supplied to this Secretariat as early as possible but not later than 11.11.78.

The admissibility or otherwise of the question will be decided in case factual information is not received by the above mentioned date.

sd- B.R. Goel
Senior Legislative Committee Officer
Tele No.s 377539 or
377229

COPY

Question No.402

23.11.1978

HOME AFFAIRS

* SHRI AMAR PRASAD CHAKRABARTY: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) as to whether his attention has been drawn to one new items on 'Netaji and I.N.A. Treasure' published in the Amrita Bazar Patrika, Calcutta, dated 25.10.1978;
- (b) if so, what are the total findings of treasures;
- (c) is it a fact that there were four suitcases with I.N.A. treasures;
- (d) who brought the treasures; and from whom? and in how many boxes;
- (e) any such box or suitcase is missing;
- (f) where were the boxes lying deposited so long; and under whose custody; and
- (g) was this matter placed before Netaji Enquiry Committee 1956 and the subsequent one man commission under the chairmanship of G.D. Khosla? If not why?

COPY

26

4574/ASD/21

SECRET

MOST IMMEDIATE/PARLIAMENT QUESTION

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

Subject:- Rajya Sabha Starred Question D.No.402
regarding INA treasure.

...

913

A copy of Rajya Sabha Secretariat's Office Memorandum No.RS/C/SQD/402/Q.1 dated 6th November, 1978 and its enclosure on the above subject is enclosed. It is understood that some valuables received from abroad were handled by the Ministry of External Affairs and subsequently got deposited in the National Museum. There has also been exchange of correspondence between the Embassy of India, Tokyo and the Ministry of External Affairs in this regard. In this connection attention is invited to their file No.C/423/1/78-JP and T.840-NGO/78. It would therefore be appropriate if the Ministry of External Affairs could kindly agree to the transfer of the question to them and furnish necessary facts to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat under intimation to this Ministry.

✓ SMO (B) (H)

5-13

[Signature]
09/11/78

(S. Bandyopadhyay)
Deputy Secretary (IS)

AS (AD) - on Tour

So (NLP)

MEA (Shri N.P. Jain, Addl. Secy)

MHA.U.O.No.21/52/78-T dated 9.11.1978.

1423
10/11

8

Copy of Office Memorandum No.RS.C/SQD/402/Q.1, dated 6.11.1978 from the Rajya Sabha Secretariat, addressed to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

...

Subject:- Starred Question D.No.402 regarding INA Treasure.

...

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- i) whether the question or a part thereof is covered by the answer given to a previous question in the Rajya Sabha, if so, the number and date thereof;
- ii) whether the required information has previously been supplied to the Rajya Sabha in the form of a statement laid on the Table of the House or otherwise; if so, the particulars thereof;
- iiii) whether the information asked for is contained in any easily accessible published document; if so, the particulars thereof;
- iv) whether it asks for information on a matter which is not primarily the concern of the Government of India;
- v) whether it asks for information on a matter which is under adjudication by a court of law having jurisdiction in any part of India;
- vi) whether it seeks information about matters which are in their nature secret; and
- vii) whether the required information relates to a matter already under the consideration of a Parliamentary Committee; if so, the particulars thereof.

The information may kindly be supplied to this Secretariat as early as possible but not later than 11.11.78.

The admissibility or otherwise of the question will be decided in case factual information is not received by the above mentioned date.

Sd/- B.R. Goel
Senior Legislative Committee Officer
Tele: Nos. 377539 and 377229

23.11.1978

24

HOME AFFAIRS

* SHRI AMAR PROSAD HAKRABARTY: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) as to whether his attention has been drawn to one news item on 'Netaji and I.N.A. Treasure' published in the Amrita Bazar Patrika, Calcutta dated 25.10.1978:

(b) if so, what are the total findings of treasures:

(c) is it a fact that there were four suitcases with I.N.A. treasures;

(d) who brought the treasures; and from whom? and in how many boxes;

(e) any such box or suitcase is missing;

(f) where were the boxes lying deposited so long; and under whose custody; and

(g) was this matter placed before Netaji Enquiry Committee 1956 and the subsequent one man commission under the chairmanship of G.D. Khosla? If not why?

2087/JS(EW)/78
29/3

4003
29/3
3804-NW/78
714

FS may like to glance
through this correspondence
PQ on the subject with be unstarred
We shall give a full
reply. Lord Mountbatten
HC has
agreed to this separately
d. Narasimha
29/3/78

HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA
LONDON

FOREIGN NEW DELHI

483/DHC/2/78.

UNCLASS

MOST IMMEDIATE

9-12630 F.W. 1819

D.H.C.

23.3.1978.

MADHAVAN FROM NAZARETH (.)

YOUR TELEX S-572 MARCH 23RD
REGARDING LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION
(No. 2271) ON HIGH COMMISSIONER'S
REQUEST TO LORD MOUNTBATTEN REGARDING
NETAJI (.)

MATERIAL FOR REPLY IS AS UNDER:-

HIGH COMMISSIONER DID WRITE TO
LORD MOUNTBATTEN "TO SHED SOME AUTHENTIC
LIGHT ON THE SUBHAS EPISODE" (.) THIS
HE DID ON A PERSONAL NOTE IN RESPONSE
TO A REQUEST HE HAD RECEIVED TO THIS
EFFECT FROM PROFESSOR SAMAR GUHA, MP (.)

LORD MOUNTBATTEN IN THE RELEVANT
PART OF HIS REPLY DATED 10TH MARCH 1978
HAS STATED AS UNDER:

" MY ARCHIVES HAVE BEEN SEARCHED
AND THERE IS NO OFFICIAL RECORD OF HIS
DEATH AND I KNOW THAT THIS DOUBT WAS
SHARED BY WAVEL HIMSELF BUT IN A BOOK,
"THE END OF THE WAR IN ASIA" BY LOUIS
ALLEN, WHO SERVED AS A JAPANESE
LANGUAGE OFFICER IN INDIA AND BURMA DURING
AND AT THE END OF THE WAR, HE DESCRIBED
IN DETAIL THE AIR CRASH ON THE 18TH
AUGUST 1945 IN WHICH CHANDRA BOSE DIED (.)

IN THIS BOOK HE ALSO STATES THAT IN

...2...

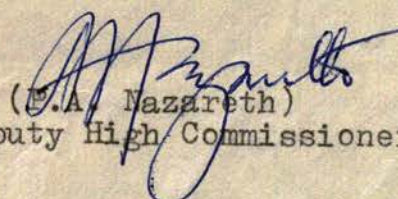
SVC
7-478

1956 A MISSION WAS SENT TO JAPAN TO ENQUIRE INTO THE CRASH AND ALTHOUGH SURESH BOSE STILL STUCK TO THE BELIEF THAT HIS BROTHER WAS ALIVE IN THE SOVIET UNION, OTHER MEMBERS OF THE MISSION WERE CONVINCED BY THE EVIDENCE OF THE 67 WITNESSES WHO WERE CALLED, THAT HE HAD DIED IN THE CRASH (.) THE FACT THAT HE HAS NEVER SURFACED ANY WHERE TO MY KNOWLEDGE MAKES IT APPEAR MORE THAN EVER CLEAR HE WAS IN FACT KILLED IN THE CRASH (.)

PHOTOCOPIES OF PROFESSOR SAMAR GUHA'S LETTER OF 26TH DECEMBER 1977 TO HIGH COMMISSIONER, HIGH COMMISSIONER'S REPLY TO HIM OF 27TH FEBRUARY 1978 High COMMISSIONER'S LETTER OF 27TH FEBRUARY 1978 TO LORD MOUNTBATTEN AND LORD MOUNTBATTEN'S LETTER OF 10TH MARCH 1978 TO HIGH COMMISSIONER BEING SENT BY TODAY'S BAG (.) HOWEVER, AS ALL THESE LETTERS ARE IN THE NATURE OF PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE, HIGH COMMISSIONER REQUESTS THAT THEY BE TREATED AS SUCH(.)

Copy with enclosures forwarded to:

Shri A. Madhavan,
Joint Secretary (EW),
Ministry of External Affairs,
New Delhi.


(P.A. Nazareth)
Deputy High Commissioner

Extract from PERSONAL letter dated 14 March 1978
from Shri N.G. Goray, High Commissioner for India, London, to
Shri Madhu Dandavate, Minister of Railways, New Delhi:

" ... Yesterday, I was told that my letter to Lord Mountbatten on the death of Subash Chandra Bose was widely publicised in the Indian Press. I am surprised that it should have happened because the only copy that I had was sent to Prof. Samar Guha, as I wanted to keep him informed. It was wrong on his part to have released it to the press if that is what had happened. It will mean that even with our friends and Members of Parliament, I must not share my views on subjects which I feel important".



BROADLANDS,
ROMSEY,
HAMPSHIRE.
SO5 9ZD.

Pl keep the order
for letter
TELEPHONE
ROMSEY (0794) 513333

20

10th March 1978

My dear High Commissioner,

Thank you for your letter of the 27th February which arrived whilst I was in Egypt.

However, I have now been able to study your comments on the possibility that the late Subash Chandra Bose did not die in August 1945.

My archives have been searched and there is no official record of his death and I know that this doubt was shared by Wavell himself but in a book, "The End of the War in Asia" by Louis Allen, who served as a Japanese language officer in India and Burma during and at the end of the war, he described in detail the air crash on the 18th August 1945 in which Chandra Bose died.

In this book he also states that in 1956 a mission was sent to Japan to enquire into the crash and although Suresh Bose still stuck to the belief that his brother was alive in the Soviet Union, other members of the mission were convinced by the evidence of the 67 witnesses who were called, that he had died in the crash. The fact that he has never surfaced any where to my knowledge makes it appear more than ever clear he was in fact killed in the crash.

The letter you quote from Vol. VI of "The Transfer of Power" is dated the 23rd August but it is replying to a letter written on the 11th August by Sir Evan Jenkins, that is, seven days before Chandra Bose's death.

H. V. Hodson, author of "The Great Divide", appears to accept without question the death of Chandra Bose, and he had access to the papers in my archives when preparing to write his book.

Yours sincerely

Maurice Allen

hls
13-3

19

27 February 1978

Perhaps your attention has been drawn to the controversy on the late Subash Chandra Bose after the publication by Her Majesty's Government of the classified documents collectively called "The Transfer of Power, 1942-47".

I would like you to refer particularly to pages 137, 138 and 139 of Vol. VI in the series, the contents of which suggest that the Government of India themselves were not sure of the death of Shri Bose in the air crash. On the contrary, they knew that he was alive and they were discussing how he should be dealt with. As you took over from Lord Wavell, it would not be wrong to presume that you must have come to know every detail about this incident.

As a young freedom fighter, I had come in close contact with the late Shri Subash Bose during 1930-39 and I can assure you that our love and loyalty to him far exceeded our love and loyalty to Jawaharlal Nehru. Subash was 'par excellence' a man of action, a natural captain amongst men. What hurts a person like me the most is not the fact that Subash Babu had to make the ultimate sacrifice in his mission but that not only your Government which rightly or wrongly looked upon him as a traitor, but even the successor Government led by a patriot like Nehru, should have abandoned him to his fate. The country was never told the whole truth about one of her most beloved sons.

You would say: Why rake up the past? My answer would be because there is a deep suspicion in India that Shri Bose took asylum in 1945 in the USSR and all this was known to you, to Nehru and to the Soviet Government. But all of

-/-

18

you preferred to observe silence, an intriguing silence I would say, perhaps because the British did not want to pick up a quarrel with their erstwhile ally and Nehru did not want to have a rival.

All of us should be willing to acknowledge our past deeds not excluding our acts of omission or commission, done under compulsions of the then existing situation. I am of the opinion that the recent exposure of the decision taken by the British to repatriate Russian refugees to USSR after the war where they were likely to be shot or sent to labour camps was an act of courage. Now at least the world knows that a blunder was committed and what Solzenitsyn had been writing was not a figment of his imagination.

Possibly a similar blunder was committed by you and by our Government in deciding not to bring back Subash to India. You have publicly stated that you did not want India's partition, but you could not persuade Jinnah to forego his demand. I make bold to say that if Subash had been on the scene, perhaps he alone, of course with the blessing of Gandhi and in cooperation with Badshah Khan, could have succeeded in holding India together.

Will it be possible for you to shed some authentic light on the Subash episode, so that we at this late hour at least shall know what happened to that intrepid, great and beloved leader of ours?

Yours sincerely

-(N. G. GORAY)

Admiral of the Fleet
Earl Mountbatten of Burma
KG, PC, GCB, OM, GCSI, GCIE, GCVO, DSO, FRS,
Broadlands, Romsey
HAMPSHIRE SO5 9J D.

S/C

17
27 February 1978

My dear Samar

I was sorry to learn that the Government of India would not like to appoint a new Enquiry Committee to look into the air-crash which was believed to have resulted in the death of Subhas Babu.

... I am writing a letter to Lord Mountbatten, a copy of which is enclosed for your perusal. I do not know whether Lord Mountbatten will care to give any information. If he does, I would certainly pass it on to you.

Yours sincerely

N.G.
(N.G. GORAY)

Prof. Samar Guha
Chairman, Committee of Privileges
147 Parliament House
NEW DELHI

Encl: As stated.

AMS



New Delhi, 26th December, 1977.

16

Dear *Nama Shahil*.

I am extremely thankful for your letter appreciating my article on mysterious disappearance of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. All my Socialist friends, so long, felt that I was rather acting emotionally on the subject. But now the British documents gave positive indication that the story of Netaji's death was nothing but a myth. I raised the issue in the Lok Sabha ^{Report} for rejecting Khosla Commission and spoke about one hour and forty-five minutes based exclusively on documents and facts justifying the reason for discarding the report of Netaji's death. Fortunately leading members of both the Janata Party and the Opposition supported my resolution and it remains still inconclusive with twenty-two more members yet to speak on the subject. I had not an iota of doubt that Netaji did not die in the alleged aircrash and still hope that he is alive for reasons which I once indicated to you.

British documents regarding Netaji, that have been revealed after 30 years, will be found in the book, "The Transfer of Power 1942-7", volume VI published by Her Majesty's Stationary Office, London. You will find them in pages 137 and 138, and then again on pages 402, 406. Some observations have also been made by the then Secretary of India, Lord Pathic Lawrence. They will be found in pages 371, 372, 373, 389, 425, and 426, etc.

You may kindly also find Wavell's book entitled, "Viceroy's Journal", page 164 and 174.

Other documents I have quoted are from the evidentiary material produced by the Government, both to Khosla Commission and to Shah Nawaz Committee.

Only 2-3 pages of Mountbatten's diary has been produced which also reveal that the British Government did not believe in the report of Netaji's death. Mountbatten is still alive. It will be extremely helpful if you seek an interview with him to have his information, or opinion about the report of Netaji's death. Mountbatten knew much about Netaji which he communicated to Pandit Nehru in 1946. Late Amritlal Seth, former Editor of 'Janambhoomi' of Ahmedabad, who accompanied Nehru when he visited Singapore to meet Mountbatten, revealed many unknown facts in the press after his return from Singapore.

Three investigation ^{teams} ~~teams~~ were sent to Far East after the report of Netaji's death — one team was headed by Mr. Figges, another by Mr. Finney and other by the Combined Services Detailed Interrogation Centre (CSDIC), a global intelligence Organisation which had its headquarters in London. Full reports of none of these Committees were published and is reported that except Figges team

---Contd---



15

New Delhi.....

- 2 -

all other investigation reports disbelieved the plane-crash story.

It will be a great service if you can persuade the British Government to find out and hand over to you the full reports and the findings of these Committees about the story of alleged death of Netaji at Taihoku in Formosa on August 18, 1945.

I hope you are finding your job nice. We believe that the secular democratic forces of Bangla Desh working in London are receiving your sympathy, particularly those who have their affiliation to Awami League. I am afraid that our present policy towards Bangla Desh will prove futile. I have tried to persuade Morarjibhai, but he is so subjective in this matter I have yet to make further efforts to convince him that giving credibility to the Military regime in Bangla Desh will ultimately recoil against the interests of India and the minorities in Bangla Desh.

Is there any possibility of your coming to India soon? If so, kindly write to me.

With warm regards,

Yours friendly,

Samar Guha
(Samar Guha).

Shri N.G. Goray,
High Commissioner,
Indian High Commission,
London.

P.S: We have further report that in 1950 the U.K. Government had sent an Intelligence Team to Tokyo for interrogating Lt. Col. Nonogaki who calimed to have travelled in the same plane with Netaji. This report of examining Nonogaki and others has not been published, or communicated to Government of India. Can you kindly find this report also from the U.K. Government?

Reference to Liaison
for above referred
material sent 1.78 for
11/12/50
R.S./24

-.-.-

The attached letter from H.C.I. London, comprising of correspondence of High Commission Goray and Lord Mountbatten, was requisitioned by US(UK) from NGO Section during the monsoon session of Parliament.

2. US(UK) desires that as the monsoon session of Parliament is over, these papers may now be returned back to NGO Section. NGO Section may please see and remove the correspondence and return this note to us for our record.

T.B. Saksena
(T.B. Saksena)
Section Officer (EW)
18.9.1978.

NGO Section.

D.10372-Nao/18
2079

R.Ve

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4957

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4957

TO BE ANSWERED ON 30 TH MARCH, 1978

DEMAND FOR A PROBE INTO INA TREASURE

4957. SRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA:

Will the Minister of External Affairs विदेश मंत्री
be pleased to state:

- a) whether Government are aware of the demand for probe into INA treasure;
- b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government thereon;
- c) whether Government have contacted the senior officers, who are supposed to know the facts and checked all the relevant records; and
- d) if so, what is the result and what action has been taken by Government on it?

.....

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SRI SAMPRENDRA KUNDU)

विदेश मंत्री

- a): Government have seen reports in the press that a probe should be conducted into the INA treasure.
- b): & c): In 1951, the Head of the Indian Liaison Mission in Tokyo was contacted by some Indians who were associated with Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. They informed him that they were in possession of some gold and jewellery which, they stated, had been collected from the plane which crashed with Netaji. The Head of the Indian Liaison Mission was also informed that in addition to the gold and jewellery, they were also in possession of Yen 20,000 (then equivalent to Rs. 265 and annas 10 only).

On instructions from the then Prime Minister, the Head of the Indian Liaison Mission in Tokyo kept this gold, jewellery

.....2/-

and cash in our Mission until further instructions.

After the signing of the Peace Treaty with Japan, these articles were sent to Delhi in November 1952 through an official of the Government of India. They were delivered to the Ministry of External Affairs, who retained them temporarily. On December 30, 1953, the gold and jewellery were handed over to the National Museum for safe custody. The cash amounting to Rs. 265 and annas 10 was, with approval of the then Prime Minister, transferred to the INA Relief Fund on December 16, 1954.

d): Government do not consider that further action is necessary. The gold and jewellery have been deposited in the National Museum and the cash credited to the account of the INA Relief Fund.

.....

30 मार्च, 1978 - - - 9 चैत्र, 1900 (शक)

को लोक सभा की बैठक में उत्तर दिए जाने के लिए

x x x

आजाद हिन्द फौज के खजाने के बारे में जांच की मांग

प्रश्न संख्या : 4957

श्री कंवर लाल गुप्त :

क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या आजाद हिन्द फौज के खजाने के बारे में जांच किये जाने की मांग की सरकार को जानकारी है,

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्सम्बन्धी ब्यौरा क्या है और इस बारे में सरकार ने क्या कार्यवाही की है, बारे में यह समझा जाता है कि उन्हें

(ग) क्या सरकार ने उन वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों से सम्पर्क किया है, जिनके / तथ्यों की जानकारी है और सभी सम्बद्ध दस्तावेजों की जांच की है, और

(घ) यदि हां, तो क्या परिणाम निकला और इस बारे में सरकार ने क्या कार्यवाही की है ?

उत्तर :

श्री समरेन्द्र कुन्दू

विदेश राज्य मंत्री

(क) सरकार ने अखबार में इस आशय की खबरें देखी हैं कि आजाद हिन्द फौज के खजाने के सम्बन्ध में जांच की जानी चाहिए ।

(ख) और (ग) : 1951 में कुछ भारतीयों ने जो नेताजी सुभाष चन्द्र बोस से संबद्ध थे, टोकियो में भारतीय संपर्क मिशन के प्रमुख से संपर्क किया था। उन्होंने उन्हें बताया कि उनके कब्जे में कुछ सोना और जवाहरात हैं, जो उन्होंने उस दुर्घटनाग्रस्त विमान से हासिल किया था जिसमें नेताजी सवार थे। भारतीय संपर्क मिशन के प्रमुख को यह भी बताया गया था कि सोने और जवाहरात के अतिरिक्त उनके कब्जे में 20,000 येन (जो उस समय 265 रुपये 10 आने के बराबर थे) हैं।

तत्कालीन प्रधान मंत्री के अनुदेशों पर टोकियो में भारतीय संपर्क मिशन के प्रमुख ने इस सोने, जवाहरात और नकद रकम को अपने मिशन में अगले अनुदेश होने तक के लिए रखा । जापान के साथ शांति संधि सम्पन्न होने के बाद ये सामग्री नवंबर, 1952 में भारत सरकार के एक अधिकारी के द्वारा दिल्ली भेज दी गई। ये सामग्री विदेश

लोक सभा

अतारकित प्रश्न संख्या : 4957

मंत्रालय को सौंप दी गयी जिसने इन्हें अस्थायी रूप से अपने पास रखा । 30 दिसम्बर, 1953 को सोना और जवाहरात राष्ट्रीय संग्रहालय को सुरक्षा पूर्वक रखने के लिए सौंप दिये गए। तत्कालीन प्रधान मंत्री की अनुमति से 265 रुपये 10 आने की नकद रकम 16 दिसम्बर, 1954 को आजाद हिंद फौज सहायता कोष को दे दी गयी ।

(घ) : सरकार इस संबंध में कोई और कार्यवाही करना आवश्यक नहीं समझती। सोना और जवाहरात राष्ट्रीय संग्रहालय को दे दिये गये हैं और नकद रकम आजाद हिंद फौज के खाते में जमा कर दी गयी है ।

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

9

I.P. Khosla
Joint Secretary (AD)

No. 2559

21 March 1978

Dear Mr. Ambassador,

Kindly refer to Shri Ram's letter dated the 14th February 1978 to Shri Pandey, copy endorsed to Director (EA), regarding Dr. Subramaniam Swamy, M.P.'s statement reported by newspapers that treasures donated to the INA and Netaji Bose were brought to New Delhi from Tokyo on the instructions of the late Prime Minister Nehru.

2. There has been no requirement as yet of officially examining the veracity of Dr. Swamy's statement. Nonetheless, we are studying old records to locate any background for reference in the future. The Director of Historical Division has been requested to study the papers in the Records Section of this Ministry and in the National Archives as discreetly as possible.

3. In the NGO Section papers available indicate the following background :-

On instructions from Delhi, some property which belonged to the INA was brought to India from Tokyo by Shri Damle, at that time Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. The articles arrived in Delhi in November 1952.

They were kept in safe custody by the then JS(AD) and it was finally decided that it should be handed over to the National Museum.

On 30/12/1953, the "treasure" was opened, contents checked against the list from Tokyo, relocked and resealed and handed, along with the keys, to Shri J.K. Roy, Superintendent, National Museum in the presence of Shri A.C. Banerji of the National Museum. This was done on 30/12/1953.

4. The above is being conveyed solely to you for your information.

Yours sincerely,

(I.P. Khosla)

Shri Eric Wonsalves,
Ambassador of India,
Tokyo

Issued.

~~TOP SECRET/IMMEDIATE~~

I.P. Khosla
Joint Secretary (AD)

No. T.840-NGO/78

8 March 1978

Dear Shri Misra,

Please refer to letter No.T.840-NGO/78 dated the 4th March 1978 from Shri Thomas Abraham, Additional Secretary, in reply to your letter No.I/13014/5/78-D.III(S) dated the 1st March 1978.

2. I might mention in this connection that our Historical Division has prepared a note regarding the question of some gold and jewellery seized by the South East Asia Comm from officials and others connected with the Indian National Army and India Independence League in South East Asian countries, after the surrender of Japan. You may like to see this also which was sent under our u.o.No.C/125/2/78-J dated the 6th March 1978, and has a bearing on the subject.

Yours sincerely,

(I.P. Khosla)

Shri R.L. Misra,
Joint Secretary (IS),
Ministry of Home Affairs,
New Delhi.

Issued
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TOP SECRET/IMMEDIATE

THOMAS ABRAHAM
Additional Secretary

No. T. 840-NG 0/78

March 4, 1978

Dear

Kindly refer to your Top Secret letter No. I/13014/5/78-
D.III (S&P) dated the 1st March, 1978.

2. From our own papers I notice that the Speaker has not
admitted the Calling Attention notice. However, since you have
asked for the facts of the case, I am enclosing a summary of
the same and a list of the "Treasure".

Yours sincerely,

(Thomas Abraham)

perused by
Shri R.L. Misra,
Joint Secretary (IS),
Ministry of Home Affairs,
New Delhi.

Enc:2

(2)

~~SECRET~~

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Shri S.A. Ayer, Director of Publicity, Government of Bombay visited Japan in May 1951 and met Shri K.K. Chettur, Head of the Indian Liaison Mission, Tokyo. Shri Ayer was staying with Shri Ramamurti. Both of them were connected with Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. Shri Ayer proposed that the gold and jewellery which had been collected from the plane in which Netaji met his death should be sent to Government of India for disposal. On Prime Minister's instructions, Shri Chettur was asked in September 1951 to take possession of the gold and jewellery which was in Shri Ramamurti's possession and keep it in the Mission until further instructions. Accordingly officers of the Mission took possession of the articles on 24.9.51.

2. In October 1952 it was enquired of our Ambassador whether the above articles could be brought over to India; since our Treaty of Peace with Japan had come into force, this could be a comparatively easy matter. Mission proposed to send these with Shri Damle, Joint Secretary, Agriculture Ministry who was returning to India on 7.11.52. As his flight was delayed, Shri Damle reached Delhi only on the night of 11.11.52. The case containing the articles was taken over for safe custody on 12.11.52.

3. According to Minutes recorded by the Prime Minister (m-193), it was decided that all relics of the late Shri Subhash Chandra Bose should be carefully preserved in proper cases. Thereafter, the box containing the 'treasure' were taken over by the Superintendent, National Museum (m-197) at the behest of the Ministry of Education. The sum of Y.20,000/- (Rupees 265-10) was handed over to the All India Congress Committee, New Delhi, on 16.12.1954 vide their receipt No. 901 for transfer to I.N.A. Relief Fund.

30.12.1953

65

LIST OF ITEMS TAKEN FROM MR. RAM MURTY, BY THE EMBASSY OF
INDIA, TOKYO ON 24.9.1951 AND HANDED OVER TO THE NATIONAL
MUSEUM NEW DELHI ON 30.12.1953

BUNDLE I

Package 1

Charred rings and pendants 400 grams

Package 2

Charred and broken bangles, pins, buckles etc. 2 kgs. 560 grams

Package 3

Charred and broken bangles, pendants, snuff
box, medals, coins and rings 325 grams

Package 4

Charred necklace pieces, medals and rings 325 grams

Package 5

Charred ear-rings, nose-rings, rings, mostly
with stones 700 grams

Package 6

Charred and broken bangles and anklets 1 kg. 700 grams

Package 7

Charred and broken rings, noserings and pendants- 825 grams

Package 8

Charred rings and nose-rings 425 grams

Package 9

Charred necklace, bangles, broaches and nose-rings- 320 grams

Package 10

Charred ear-rings with stones and rings 425 grams

Package 11

Charred rings 105 grams

Package 12

Charred rings and chain 200 grams

Package 13

Charred rings and buttons 50 grams

Package 14

Charred ear pendants 50 grams
8.410

BUNDLE II

Charred gold mixed with molten metal, iron etc. 3.500

BUNDLE III

Metal, mostly base and dust 1.600

AYER'S LOT

(1) 9 pieces of gold : 300 grams



R.L. MISRA

संयुक्त सचिव
JOINT SECRETARY (IS)

TOP

D.O. No. I/13014/5/78-D.III(S&P)

भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

गृह मन्त्रालय
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
NEW DELHI-110001,
1st March, 1978.

3

T. 840-N 20/78

1/3/78

Dear Shri Abraham,

Please refer to our discussion this morning regarding Dr. Subramaniam Swamy's allegations regarding INA 'treasure' which have appeared in the press on 9th February, 1978. A Calling Attention Notice from Shri Virendra Prasad, MP, was also received from the Lok Sabha Secretariat, a copy of which has been forwarded to the Ministry of External Affairs (Shri Farvesh Chandra, US(FE)) for taking over the same as the matter seemed to primarily relate to your Ministry. We have also received a communication from our Mission in Tokyo vide letter No. TOK/TS/1/78 dated 14th February, 1978 of Shri A.N. Ram, Counsellor, which gives certain facts regarding the case, a copy of which has been endorsed to the Ministry of External Affairs. However, this communication does not disclose all the facts some of which could be ascertained only from your Ministry.

2. Since the matter is likely to attract public controversy, we shall be grateful to have the full facts at your earliest convenience.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

R.L. Misra

(R.L. MISRA)

Shri Thomas Abraham,
Additional Secretary,
Ministry of External Affairs,
NEW DELHI.

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A.N.RAM
Counsellor

~~SECRET~~

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भारत का राजदूतावास, टोकियो

EMBASSY OF INDIA

TOKYO

1871-N60178

24/2/78

No. TSK/78/11/78

14 February 1978

Dear Shri Pandey,

Please refer to D.O. letter No.C/423/1/78-JP of 10th February 1978 from Miss N.N.Haralu, Director(EA) regarding Dr.Subramaniam Swamy's demand for a probe in the "INA Treasure".

2. We have checked the records available with us and the facts as per our files appear to be as under:-

- (i) Certain "stuff" belonging to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and supposedly handed over by Co.Habibul Rahman to one Mr.Ramamoorthy, after protracted discussion etc. were taken over by this Embassy on 24th September 1951. This fact was reported to the Ministry of External Affairs vide letter No.F-26(14)/48 dated 20th October 1951 from Shri K.K.Chattur, the then Head of the Indian Liaison Mission in Tokyo, addressed to Shri M.S.Dutt, Secretary, Commonwealth Relations, Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi.
- (ii) Kumari Lilamani Naidu, Deputy Secretary(Ministry of External Affairs) vide her letter No.F.25/6/NGO-52 of 16th October 1952 conveyed to the Ambassador that the Prime Minister wishes to know whether the treasure or its equivalent can be brought over to India. The Ambassador, Shri Rauf, vide his Top Secret telegram of 27th October 1952 had informed the Ministry that he proposes to send the same in the custody of Shri Damle, Joint Secretary of the Agriculture Ministry, who was returning to India on 7th Nov.
- (iii) Accordingly, one steel attache case, weighing approx.35 pounds and containing the treasure was handed over to Shri Damle on 9th November 1952 at the Tokyo Airport and a receipt obtained .
- (iv) The Ministry of External Affairs conveyed to this Embassy vide their top Secret telegram of 12th November 1952 that the "goods" had arrived in New Delhi on 12th November. This fact was further confirmed through a D.O. letter from Shri H.Dayal, joint Secretary in the External Affairs, Ministry to the Ambassador vide his letter No/F.25/4/NGO of 15th November 1952.
- (v) There is no further information available on the files regarding the disposal of these valuables which had

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reached India. In his letter of 15th November Shri Dayal had said that these valuables would be kept in safe custody "until it is decided what is to be done with them."

- (vi) In addition to these valuables, there was also a sum of Y20,000 in currency notes which had been received by the Embassy. This had also been eventually credited into Government accounts in this Embassy, and advice sent to the Ministry. This was done on specific instructions vide Ministry's letter No.F-25/4/NGO of 5th May 1953 in which it was stated that steps would be taken in India to withdraw the amount in rupees. No further information on either the withdrawal or utilisation of this amount is available in our files.

3. There is no mention in our files regarding the flight being stranded in Hong Kong, though Shri Damle's arrival in New Delhi on the 12th November was "delayed". The flight carrier used by Shri Damle, as per our records was Pan Am (flight No.3) and not BOAC as mentioned by Shri Swampy.

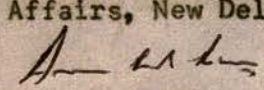
4. We have carried out a check of various files pertaining to that period in the Embassy including miscellaneous D.O.s and correspondence exchanged by the Head of the Liaison Mission/ Ambassador as well as the Top Secret Diary but have failed to trace any CCB telegram from the then Prime Minister either addressed to the Ambassador or to Shri Damle. No papers as to the object of Shri Damle's visit to Tokyo are traceable.

Yours sincerely,

(A.N.RAM)

Shri J.C.Pandey,
Joint Secretary,
Ministry of Home Affairs,
New Delhi.

Copy to Miss N.N. Haralu, Director(EA),
Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi.


Counsellor